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POLL RESULTS

Should the optional services being provided to Medicaid beneficiaries be eliminated?

Yes	38
No	68
Undecided	5
No opinion	5

Sunday, July 15, 2012

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Visa, MasterCard and major banks agreed to pay retailers at least $6 billion to settle a long-running lawsuit that alleged the card issuers conspired to fix the fees that stores pay to accept credit cards.

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WORLD

U.N. observers investigating a reported mass killing in a Syrian village on Saturday found pools of blood in homes and spent bullets, mortars and artillery shells, adding details to the emerging picture of what anti-regime activists have called one of the deadliest events of Syria's uprising. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

If reaction to "The Hobbit" footage at Comic-Con is any indication, Peter Jackson has another couple of blockbusters on his hands.

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CNMI QC program has 8 inactive recipients

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» PTI Services, We Manage Calls last to surrender certificates

The Commonwealth Development Authority on Friday disclosed that the CNMI Qualifying Certificate program currently has a total of eight inactive recipients after PTI Services and We Manage Calls Inc. both surrendered their certificates.

CDA economic development analyst Carline B. Sablan said Friday that several factors led to the two companies' decision to give up their QCs.

The government's QC program was set up to provide various tax incentives for investors to build, expand, and operate commercial projects in the CNMI. It was subsequently amended to relax the criteria for the issuance of QC by lowering the minimum investment amount for hotel or condominium expansion, removing the discretionary authority for the governor to establish terms and conditions in approving a QC, and allowing

See PROGRAM on Page 4

Moratorium on new loans stays until CDA builds up reserves

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The recent moratorium imposed by the Commonwealth Development Authority on its loan program will likely remain until the agency builds up its reserves to keep new loans afloat, according to CDA comptroller Danny Militante.

CDA implemented the moratorium on their new loans about two months ago. Militante said the enforcement was "temporary" until the agency builds up reserves for new loans.

The comptroller declined to give figures about the target "reserves" for new loans but emphasized that the agency is recording progressive numbers in its current collection.

As of this week, it was disclosed that CDA has $35.696 million in loan receivables from borrowers: $11.9 million for active borrowers; $8.254 million for debt-relief program members; and $11.6 million in loan balance from court judgments.

See MORATORIUM on Page 4

'2012 Las Vegas Night an unequivocal success'

ROSELYN MONROYO
Rotarian Josh Gabaldon, left, checks the winning bets at the roulette table during last Saturday's Las Vegas Night gambling-for a-cause organized by Saipan Rotary Club at Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan Rotary Club's signature fundraiser was an unequivocal success with more than 1,000 community members showing up and cramming its Las Vegas Night event held last Saturday at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Rotary Club president Pete Schilling and vice president Laila Boyer expressed their surprise and amazement on the overwhelming support they received, claiming that this year's crowd as well as the ticket sales were among the biggest recorded in the history of the annual event.

Las Vegas Night, which aims to raise funds for the organization's various community projects, featured tables crowded with players eager to lay bets on Texas Hold'em, black jack, roulette, bingo, and craps.

Shilling and Boyer disclosed that due

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Hanamitsu Hotel sues night club over alleged excessive noise. PAGE 2
Hart says NMC promised $5.7M in House budget bill. PAGE 3

Local

Hanamitsu Hotel sues night club over alleged excessive noise

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Hanamitsu Hotel and Spa has filed a lawsuit against Oceans Club & Discotheque in Garapan for allegedly failing to stop excessive noise coming from loud music and shouting.

As a result of the noise, Hanamitsu Hotel and Spa claimed that it refunded money to several of their guests who have complained of not being able to sleep because of the loud music and shouting coming from the disco's premises.

Amy International Corp., operator of Hanamitsu Hotel and Space, and hotel general manager Zhang Huaying named as defendants WTT (USA) LLC, which owns Oceans Club & Discotheque; WTT owner Katsuryuma Kawagishi; Ocean Club's consultant and part-time manager Rei Yamagishi; Ocean Club's disco jockey and on-site manager Roderico Vicente; and 20 unnamed agents and employees of WTT.

Plaintiffs Amy International and Huaying are suing the defendants for private nuisance.

Saipan Tribune tried yesterday but failed to contact any of the defendants.

Plaintiffs Amy International and Huaying, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, asked the Superior Court to issue a preliminary and permanent injunction preventing all defendants from causing excessive noise.

Amy International demanded unspecified damages from losses based on refunding of money to guests and for loss of business and future income.

The plaintiffs also sought payment for costs and attorney's fees.

Bellas stated in the complaint that Amy International Corp. operates Hanamitsu Hotel and Spa in central part of Garapan.

Amy International subleased its space since 2007 and used it for other business activity.

Amy International commenced its hotel business in August 2010. Prior to that time, a sublessor remodeled the building which is subleased by Hanamitsu Hotel in order to make it suitable for a hotel business.

On Feb. 1, 2011, WTT (USA) LLC bought out the bar which was previously operating out of the commercial space on the second floor of the same building occupied by Hanamitsu Hotel.

The rooms rented to members of the public are located on the second floor of Hanamitsu Hotel.

Hanamitsu and WTT's Oceans Club & Discotheque, therefore have walls which are in close proximity to each other, approximately 3 feet or less.

The hotel and its rooms are on one side and the business premises of Oceans Club are on the other side of an open space of approximately two feet.

Bellas said because of this close proximity, plaintiffs and the sublessor's presentative had concerns when WTT first sought to lease the space next to the hotel.

Bellas said therefore a meeting was held between WTT's manager Rei Yamagishi and sublessor's representative.

Bellas said manager Yamagishi promised as part of the remodeling of Oceans Club's premises that, at a minimum, soundproofing material would be placed under the tiles to be laid on the floor of the club.

However, the lawyer said, when the remodeling was completed, Yamagishi advised that no soundproofing material was used under the vinyl tiles.

Bellas said when WTT commenced its business operations, Ocean's Club's DJ and on-site manager Roderico Vicente and other unnamed co-defendants played the music in the club at a high volume until 2am.

"The volume of the music is so loud that it causes the common wall, on the hotel side to vibrate," the lawyer said.

In addition to the noise from the interior of the club, Bellas said, a speaker has been installed on the second floor landing of the exterior staircase leading to the second floor and the front entrance of the club.

Unnamed defendants, Bellas said, would crank up the volume of the speaker to a very loud level.

Bellas said his clients have on several occasions summoned the Department of Public Safety complaining about the excessive noise coming from the club.

When employees of the club see the responding police officers approaching, they would lower the volume.

"Shortly after the officers leave the area, the music is again turned back to the disturbing volume," Bellas said.

Almost a year after beginning the club's operation, another meeting was held between the sublessor's representative, Yamagishi, and WTT owner Katsuryuma Kawagishi.

At this meeting, Bellas said, Kawagishi and Yamagishi promised that either they would take soundproofing measures or they would be relocating their club operation to another location.

"After a year of noise problems and promises to take remedial action, Yamagishi recently told the sublessor's representative that he does not intend any sound control measure because any promises to do so were only oral and therefore not enforceable," Bellas said.

Frustrated by WTT's continued interference with the peaceful enjoyment of plaintiffs' property rights, plaintiffs wrote letters of complaints to the Division of Environmental Quality, the Zoning Board, and DPS.

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Hart says NMC promised $5.7M in House budget bill

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart said a pre-filed House budget bill allocates a higher funding level to the institution for fiscal year 2013, contrary to reports that the bill intends to bring the college's budget down.

NMC was appropriated $5.1 million in fiscal year 2012. Hart told *Saipan Tribune* that for next fiscal year the institution may receive a higher budget of about $5.7 million—based on the pre-filed budget bill at the House last week.

The president explained that the new budget bill identified three funding sources for NMC in FY 2013: general appropriation from the general fund, Compact Impact Funds, and the Commonwealth worker fund.

"From a cursory reading of the document [budget bill], it looks like the House is proposing to appropriate close to $5.7 million [from three sources]," said Hart.

On page 29 of the House budget bill, NMC was proposed to receive $4,751,826 for its operation and personnel costs. This amount, to come from the general fund, will cover 150 employees in the college.

Page 34 of the same budget legislation indicated that NMC was proposed to get $376,929 from the Compact Impact Funds. From the Commonwealth workers' fund, the college is also recommended to receive $560,297 in FY 2013.

Hart said in combining all these proposed funds for NMC, a total of $5,689,051 was proposed to be given to the institution next fiscal year.

Saipan Tribune learned that the budget bill for NMC is lower than what the institution is requesting, which is $8 million. However, the proposed $5.7 million for FY 2013 is still an increase from FY 2012 actual budget which was $5.1 million.

Hart

Hart said NMC's proposed budget in the House bill is welcome news and vows to do all she can to get this amount increased even further.

She said a low budget for NMC in the next fiscal year will have a "terrible impact" in its operations.

The president said she made it very clear to the Legislature and the Executive Branch numerous times, that NMC may lose its accreditation if the CNMI will not do something about the "fiscal sustainability" of its only community college.

According to Hart, NMC is so far behind with other U.S. states and territories in terms of budget allocations for higher education. Compared to the average national level of over 10 percent, NMC currently gets only 4 percent of the CNMI's budget.

NMC is still addressing the deficiencies identified by the accreditation commission and among them is the college's fiscal sustainability. In demonstrating this, NMC is required to pay its employees comparable salaries which didn't happen for many years.

NMC has two funding sources: the yearly appropriations from the general fund and from the tuition fees of its students.

FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013

PSS to procure 1K laptops for incoming 7th graders

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh disclosed Friday that all incoming seventh graders in public and private schools will soon receive their own laptops

Thornburgh said the Board of Education decided to continue the implementation of PSS' One-Laptop-Per Child Policy which was initially planned to last for only two school years.

The One-Laptop-Per-Child project aims to give laptops to students from seventh to 12th grade in both private and public schools.

It was initiated in 2010 and PSS used the portion of the one-time $34.2-million state fiscal stabilization fund from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act monies to procure the first batch of technologies for students.

Based on the PSS laptop policy, seniors will own the units after their graduation, while seventh and eighth graders will carry their units to high school.

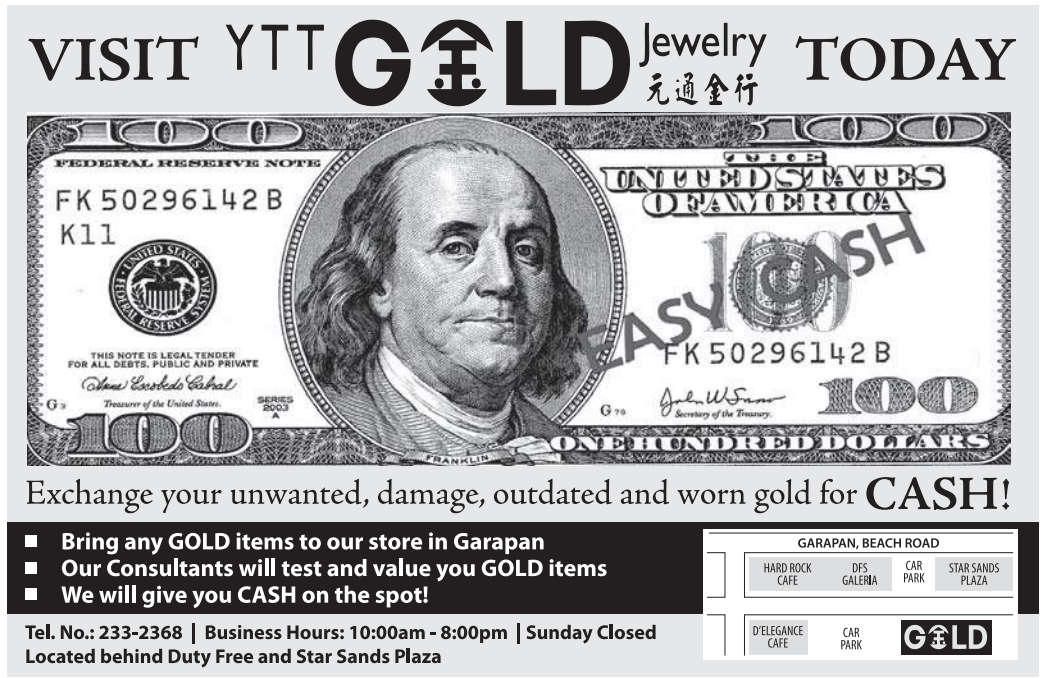
Thornburgh said PSS will procure 1,000 brand new laptops using funds from the PSS' regular consolidated grant. He declined to give the estimated cost for the new equipment, citing a bid process is ongoing for the laptop project.

Of the 1,000 laptops to be purchased this year, about 120 will go to seventh graders in private schools. These technologies are expected to be distributed during the opening of classes in September.

Thornburgh, in a visit to his office Friday, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that laptops provided to students were proven helpful in their learning activities. Evidence are the positive and upward trend in both standard-based assessment and Stanford assessment test-10 (SBA and SAT-10) across all grade levels.

Thornburgh said laptops provide students self-directive learning which is the deepest type of learning. More importantly, he said laptops help PSS to prepare students in their career paths after high school.

The federal programs officer said the U.S. Department of Education had expressed great support in the laptop project established by CNMI PSS.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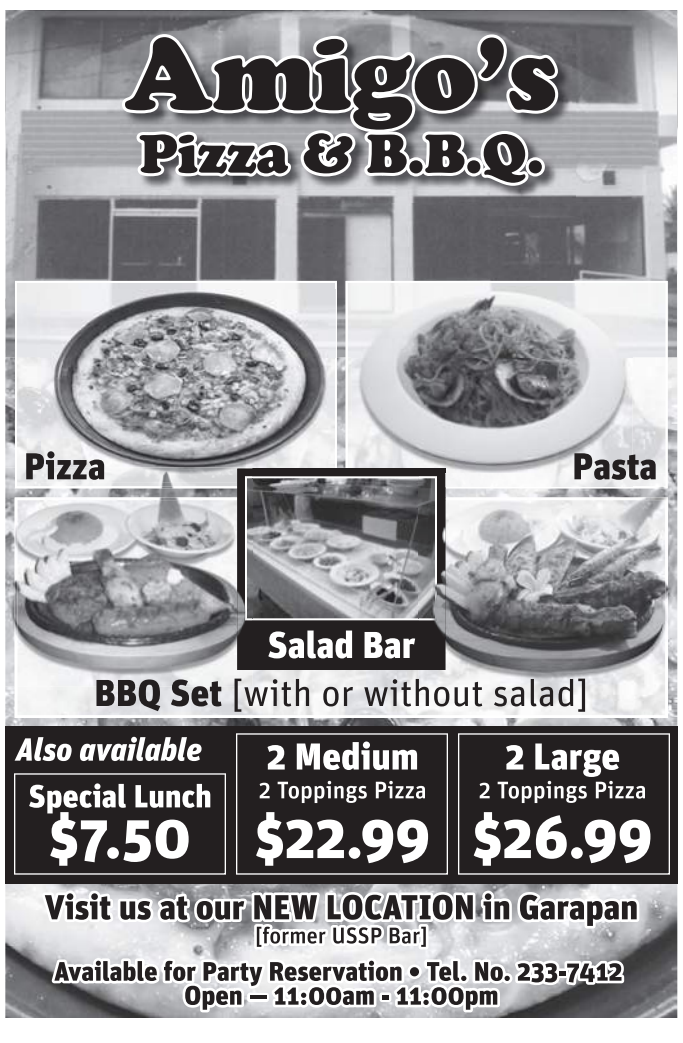

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Tourist who tried to sneak to Guam using inflatable boat pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of two Chinese male nationals who were rescued from a distressed inflatable boat in the waters near Rota in their alleged attempt to sneak to Guam has entered a guilty plea in federal court on Friday.

Jingzhi Zeng, 25, pleaded guilty to an information charging him with a misdemeanor offense of entering the United States by willfully false and misleading representation and willful concealment of material fact.

Court-appointed counsel Colin Thompson represented Zeng in the case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Zeng's guilty plea and set the sentencing for Oct. 26, 2012 at 9am.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton told the court that Zeng arrived as a tourist at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on April 4, 2012 and claimed he would stay only for five days in the CNMI or until April 9.

Naughton said Zeng, however, had no intent to return to China on April 9 as he instead went to Rota.

The prosecutor said Zeng's plan was to secretly proceed to Guam to open a business.

Homeland Security Investigations special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in an affidavit that, on April 22, 2012, DPS Boating Safety officers on Rota responded to a distressed inflatable boat in the ocean two miles off shore of Rota.

The officers located the boat and rescued the passengers of the raft who were later identified as Zeng and Jingqiang Huang.

Huang was the one who bought the inflatable boat in China and brought it to Rota through Saipan. The two launched the boat at the pier close to the Coral Garden Hotel in Rota at around midnight.

The two mentioned they were going fishing and were not attempting to go to Guam.

During further interview, Huang confessed they were attempting to row the boat from Rota to Guam.

Huang added that once they land in Guam, they would contact a Chinese national who lives there to pick them up.

Zeng later admitted that as they were attempting to row the boat to Guam, they realized they could not make it because the condition of the ocean was rough.

Zeng said he got the idea of sneaking into Guam from Rota from the Internet when he was in China before coming to the CNMI.

It is not clear yet whether charges was filed or will also be filed against Zeng's companion, Huang.

Solomons PM calls for multilateral cooperation to fight corruption

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo has told regional delegates attending a-three-day Pacific Prosecutors Conference in Honiara that intra-agency cooperation must be the rule in fighting corruption.

Mr. Lilo said this is justified by the fact that fighting the web of corruption is everyone's duty,not only the police officers, anti-corruption agencies or prosecutors.

Opening the conference yesterday with the theme 'Building prosecutor capacity: dismantling the web of corruption', the Prime Minister said that prosecuting corruption or corruption-related crimes calls for a dedicated and robust prosecutorial agency or agencies.

"One needs all the tools necessary for the discharge of their prosecutorial responsibilities without fear or favor," he said.

In addition to that, Mr. Lilo said an independent prosecutorial agency is essential in dismantling corruption.

Detailing what his Government is doing to fight against corruption the Prime Minister said his Government had taken heed of the people's wish, which resulted in the ratification of the United Nation Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in January this year.

He said his Government through Cabinet had approved a task force to look into setting up the relevant body to fight corruption.

Mr. Lilo said that they have recently requested assistance from one of the multi-lateral donors to assist the Government to undertake an outcome-focused public consultation process on their options for the establishment of an Independent Anti-Corruption Commission as well as developing a comprehensive National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

He re-affirmed his government's commitment to the important role played by the Director of Public Prosecution's Office and the Ministry of Police and Justice.

The Prime Minister said like everyone else, even prosecutors are not above the law and challenged them to lead by example.

"You will be judged by how capable, professional and ethical you discharge your obligations. "At times, you yourselves will be challenged by corrupt practices. I encourage you to lead by example. Keep clear from conduct that brings disrepute to your profession as prosecutors," he said.

He added: "If you want to rid the other departments of corruption, you yourselves must be above reproach.

"With challenges such as increasing complexities of crime, under-resourcing, heavy work-load and corruption in high places such as those we read about in newspapers across the Pacific, there is a tendency to relax your standards."

Mr. Lilo said that the public is looking to entities such as the Public Prosecution to represent the public interest.

Also present at the Conference was the President of the International Association of Prosecutors, Mr. James Hamilton.

LAS VEGAS

From Page 1

to the continuous success of the traditional one-night casino for a good cause, they are planning to hold future events in a larger space and may expand gaming tables to accommodate more players.

This year, Las Vegas Night featured nine black jack tables, six tables for Texas Hold'em, two for roulette, one for craps, and some tables for bingo games.

Saturday night's proceeds will be used in building the children's community park in Kagman, which the club hopes to start before the year ends.

Although total tickets sales have yet been finalized as of Saturday night, both Boyer and Shilling believe that the club sold more tickets this year than previous events.

"We didn't expect to see this many people. When you think about the state of the economy locally, it's just amazing that so many people bought tickets to donate to the Rotary Club and so many people turned out for the event. It's just amazing," Shilling told reporters after the event which ended exactly 12 midnight.

Shilling expressed his gratitude to the leadership of vice president Boyer for all her efforts and hard work she put in to the successful event. He also recognized the valuable assistance of club members whom, he said, 75 percent were on attendance last Saturday.

A special thanks were also sent out by the president to the departments of Public Lands and Community and Cultural Affairs for allowing the group to sell tickets during Thursday's Street Market as well as the Joeten Super Store for the same help.

Besides club members, Shilling said there were 15 non-Rotarian volunteers who assisted them by serving as dealers of the game.

Boyer, who will be next year's club president, vowed to hold the annual event with additional fun and festivity by injecting a theme on the annual Las Vegas Night.

This year's theme—"Stars and Stripes"—was the first initiated by the club and was conceptualized in celebration of the Commonwealth Liberation during the month.

ROSELYN MONROYO

More than 1,000 community members showed up for Las Vegas Night last Saturday at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall and Saipan Rotary Club officials believe it is the biggest turnout in the fundraiser's history.

A costume competition was held Saturday night and Rosalinda San Agustin was adjudged winner for her shimmering dress made of cigarette foils, which she perfectly matched with her colorful hat, bag, and shoe especially made for the occasion.

According to Boyer, the club is also considering to hold a Texas Hold'em tournament within the year to raise additional funds for the club's other projects.

Saturday's event also gave away exciting door prizes and was highlighted by the raffle draw cash prizes.

Winning the grand prize of either $10,000 cash or a brand new 2012 Hyundai Accent GLS was Ariel Capati with his winning ticket No. 3069. Capati was not present during the draw and could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Romana Emmeti, with ticket No. 4157, won second place with $3,000 cash prize, while Reynaldo Pulido, with ticket No. 3021, bagged the $2,000 cash prize.

For the $1,000 cash prize, the winning ticket was No. 7693 and it belonged to Mike Cruz, while Leonora Bengco, with ticket No. 2236, won the $500 cash prize.

PROGRAM

From Page 1

rebates of taxes of up to 100 percent for 25 years.

Records obtained from CDA show that a total of 15 qualifying certificates were issued since the program's inception in 2000.

The first company to qualify for the program was SandCastle-Saipan when it was issued the tax break certificate in 2002. Several other companies then applied and were granted tax incentives.

Sablan confirmed Friday that eight out of the 15 issued certificates were "inactive" to date. Companies' QC certificates are classified as inactive if they back out from infusing the promised investments, do not agree to the conditions and requirements, or surrender the certificate.

Companies that belong to this category include Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Spring Water Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Rota Resort & Country Club, Dai-ichi Hotel, and Saipan World Resort.

In November last year, two companies gave up their certificates: We Manage Calls Inc., which certificate was issued in 2005 for a proposed call center business, but its plans did not push through.

It cited the uncertainties of federalization, the minimum wage hike, and economic status of the island. Sablan said We Manage Calls Inc. formally surrendered its QC on Nov. 15, 2011.

PTI Services Inc., which was issued a certificate in 2009, also surrendered its certificate on the same period last year, according to Sablan.

Meantime, the seven companies that are still enjoying their tax breaks include SandCastle Saipan, Hard Rock Café, Tony Roma's & Capricciosa, World Resort Saipan, Bridge Capital LLC, Saipan Laulau Development Inc., and Sandy Beach Homes LLC.

Investors' concerns

According to Sablan, potential investors are looking at several factors prior to making the final move to put in their hard dollars in the CNMI.

The tax break environment, she added, is only among these factors. Other important areas of concern are the economic climate on island, level of competition, possible sources of skilled labor, wage issues, among others.

Sablan described the tax break as only "icing in the cake" for any potential investor.

"QC is not the cure for all economic woes. We have to understand that the CNMI is competing with Guam and other areas and sometimes tax break is just an icing on the cake. But if you have issues like shortage of skilled labor, infrastructure issues, rising cost of utilities…it's not easy to make a decision to come here," added Sablan.

MORATORIUM

From Page 1

These are the three biggest "receivable" areas of the agency.

Militante admitted that due to the high number of clients not making good on their loan payments to CDA, issuance of new loans to borrowers was suspended indefinitely.

However, because CDA is also handling the new Small Business Credit Initiative Program, which received $13 million funding approval from the U.S. Treasury, Militante said businesses that might be affected by the CDA moratorium on new loans have now an option to consider—apply to SBCI program which has already made available over $4 million to the CNMI borrowers.

CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho last Wednesday disclosed that three commercial banks have already intensified willingness to participate in the program.

Under the SBCI program, applications will be submitted directly to the banks which will entirely decide on the loan proposal. CDA and the Department of Commerce will serve as support system for applicants in terms of trainings and other assistance.

Saipan Tribune learned that CDA is facing high delinquency rate on loans which was also a factor on the decision.

Militante told *Saipan Tribune* that the agency is assessing its cash position while at the same time evaluating its underwriting policies and procedures to be able to determine when it could open up the program.

CDA is an autonomous agency created by law to assist the public by offering commercial loans to qualified borrowers. It also serves as the government's economic development arm and financial adviser.

Atalig joins Yana in statement vs Wiseman, Govendo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Suspended attorney Antonio M. Atalig has joined the statement issued in federal court by another suspended lawyer, Reynaldo O. Yana, who stated that Superior Court associate judges Kenneth L. Govendo and David A. Wiseman are not impartial.

Atalig informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week that until he saw recently an article on *Saipan Tribune* in the Internet, he was not aware of Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's order directing him and Yana to explain why they should not be suspended from practicing law in the district court.

Atalig said in view of his discovery of the article, he would like to exercise his right to file something in response to Manglona's order by joining in Yana's statement with respect to Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman's judgment suspending them from the practice of law.

Atalig did not add anything to Yana's statement.

Atalig said since he just recently learned how to use the Internet, he decided to test his knowledge by searching the news published in previous issues of the *Saipan Tribune.*

He said he found out that sometime in the past a news article about him and Yana was published in the website.

Atalig said in that article, Manglona intended to make a reciprocal discipline to him and Yana and that they were supposed to be given 30 days to make comments in their defense.

Atalig said prior to the discovery of the news article, he has not received any formal paper from district court ordering him to make comment in his defense.

"I have practiced in the U.S. District Court years ago, and I am not aware that any box there is set aside for me," he added.

Last month, Yana responded to Manglona's order by submitting a statement.

Yana stated that he believes that ever since Govendo refused to disqualify himself in the Angel Malite probate case, he has not received true justice.

"True justice requires among other things that a judge, who decides on my fate in a court of law, must be impartial. I don't believe that Judge Govendo and Judge Wiseman were impartial," Yana said.

Yana said he does not have any pending case in the district court and that he has no plans to practice in this court until the CNMI Supreme Court has decided on his appeal from Wiseman's suspension order.

Yana said he has no problem for the district court to "rubber stamp" Wiseman's order to suspend him.

Yana, however, informed the district court that he has "a statement to make."

In his statement, Yana discussed the procedural history of the disciplinary case against him and Atalig, that according to him is "full of questionable events."

In her order issued last May, Manglona said she has received from the Superior Court a copy of associate judge Wiseman's order that indefinitely suspends Atalig and Yana from the practice of law in the Commonwealth.

Manglona gave Atalig and Yana 30 days to inform her of any claim that the imposition of the identical discipline in district court would be unwarranted and the reasons.

Last May 16, Wiseman ordered the suspension of Atalig and Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for misconduct with regards to their refusal to return $1.1 million in attorneys' fees that the two lawyers received from the Malite estate.

Wiseman ordered that the suspension is indefinite until Atalig and Yana have complied with some conditions.

Convict admits he and custodian smoked pot

A man convicted of immigration document fraud has admitted to smoking marijuana while on bail and confessed that one of his third party custodians also smoked marijuana, according to the U.S. Probation Office.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola yesterday asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to conduct a hearing to determine if the bail of Steven Romie Aguon should be modified or revoked.

Arriola said the special condition of Aguon's bail is that he shall not use or unlawfully possess a narcotic drug or other controlled substances.

Last February, Aguon pleaded guilty to count one of the indictment charging him with immigration document fraud. He is waiting for his sentencing.

In his declaration, Arriola said that, on May 2, 2012, the Marianas Counseling Services informed him that Aguon had tested positive for chemicals found in marijuana.

Arriola said Aguon stated that he drank tea made from the roots of marijuana plant and that a friend who made "local medicine" had prepared the tea.

Arriola said when confronted about information that the roots of marijuana do not contain appreciable amount of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), Aguon admitted smoking marijuana after a family member offered him the drug.

Aguon also allegedly disclosed that he also saw his girlfriend, who is one of his third party custodians, smoking marijuana with friends in front of his residence.

Arriola said Aguon stated that he confronted and slapped his girlfriend on the face for using the drug.

The probation officer said that, on May 25, 2012, the girlfriend admitted to him that she indeed smoked marijuana and that Aguon slapped her for that. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Camacho dismisses revocation petition vs ex-convict

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed the Office of the Attorney General's filing of a petition to revoke an ex-convict's probation.

In his order issued on Friday, Camacho granted assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti's motion to dismiss the revocation proceedings filed against his client, Raymond N. Saka.

» Judge finds word 'upon' significant in the case

Camacho ruled that, on Oct. 26, 2011 when the oral revocation was made, Saka's term of probation had already expired and therefore the court lacked jurisdiction over the matter.

The judge said the 14 days Saka spent in jail did not toll his probation and that defendant's probation expired on Oct. 12, 2011.

"In other words, the clock stops as soon as the Commonwealth or the Office of Adult Probation moves to revoke," Camacho said.

According to court records, on Oct. 13, 2010, Saka pleaded guilty to assault and battery. Then Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the defendant to, among other things, report to the Office of Adult Probation that same day (Oct. 13).

Manglona sentenced Saka to six months in jail, all suspended except for 15 days, with credit for one day time served.

Manglona placed the defendant on supervised probation for one year.

The order required Saka to report to the Department of Corrections on Oct. 25, 2010. The order stated he was to be released Nov. 9, 2010.

Saka served 14 days in jail and was released from DOC on Nov. 9, 2010.

On Oct. 26, 2011, a probation officer made an oral motion to revoke Saka's probation. The OAG then filed a notice of revocation hearing on Dec. 5, 2011.

Guidotti, counsel for Saka, filed a motion to dismiss that questioned the court's jurisdiction on expired probation matter.

Guidotti said consistent with the court's order, Saka's probation began on Oct. 13, 2010, regardless whether he appeared at the Office of Adult Probation that day.

In opposition to Saka's motion, assistant attorney general Darren Robinson asserted that although Judge Manglona ordered the defendant to report to the Office of Adult Probation on Oct. 13, 2010, his probationary period did not begin until his release from jail on Nov. 9, 2010.

Robinson said Manglona's order did not specify when probation was to begin, only when Saka was to report to the Office of Adult Probation.

Robinson said Saka mistakenly interprets the word "report" to mean that probation began at this time.

In granting Saka's motion to dismiss, Judge Camacho noted that the plea agreement, which Judge Manglona accepted, reads in pertinent part that the "Defendant shall, upon changing his plea to guilty, be placed on supervised probation for one year."

Camacho said the meaning of "upon" in this case is significant.

One definition of "upon" is "immediately or very soon after," Camacho said.

Camacho said several uses of the word "on," a synonym of "upon," also support this usage.

Camacho said the plain meaning of "upon changing his plea to guilty, be placed on supervised probation for one year," naturally means that defendant will be placed on probation as soon as he pleads guilty.

"The Commonwealth's argument that additional language would be needed to indicate immediacy such as 'immediately upon pleading guilty' is not persuasive," the judge said.

Rather, Camacho added, the plain meaning of "upon" would render the word "immediately" superfluous in this context.

RADIO CHECK CPL. KENNETH JASIK

Corporal Jordi Inoke, radio operator, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, gets a radio check near the Kajaki Dam, in Helmand Province Afghanistan, July 1, 2012. Inoke, 24, from Pohnpei Island, Micronesia, spoke very little English when he joined the Marine Corps three years ago, but has since become fluent.

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Observers describe PNG elections as 'disorganized'

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Papua New Guinea's (PNG) 2012 National General Election has had an unfortunate level of disorganization and inconsistency in aspects of election management.

And while there has been some progress with some setbacks in the country's efforts to strengthen its democracy in this election, serious concerns have been raised that need to be addressed by the Electoral Commission (PNGEC) and the Government for future elections. The Commonwealth Observer Group observing the elections yesterday presented their interim report detailing the discrepancies, difficulties, and the failure by the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission in its logistic planning for the General Election.

The United States Government, on behalf of the East West Center Observer Group, also released their interim report yesterday detailing the same sentiments, although being very diplomatic in their presentation.

Both teams have raised the same issues that need to be addressed by the PNG Government and PNGEC—those that have been experienced over the years, but have been ignored. They have both addressed the issue of the rise of money politics this time around and the danger surrounding it.

While there are some positives in the current elections, the report, released by Head of the Chair, Edward Natapei, and U.S. Ambassador for PNG Teddy Taylor and his team, strategically addressed issues in the period of campaign, voting, electoral roll, the counting, security and election operation and the election management in general. "Some of the benchmarks for democratic processes have been met, but several significant challenges remain to be addressed for the future," Mr. Natapei presented.

"It is our considered assessment that irregularities that were observed in the voting process were in large part not the result of action directed by any government entity or political party. Rather, they were the unintended consequences of poor logistical organization, inadequate training for poll workers, and local attempts to address both the challenge of illiterate voters and the desire to inculcate ethnic traditions designed to minimize conflict into the polling process," Ambassador Taylor released.

"The staff of the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission, both in Port Moresby and around the country, worked hard in very challenging circumstances. Nevertheless, the Group observed that there was an unfortunate level of disorganization and inconsistency in aspects of election management," Natapei said.

"Widespread delays in the polling schedule were of concern, given their potential to confuse and disenfranchise voters, and the cost and security implications of further extending an already lengthy election period. Delays occurred in certain places due to weather conditions, but in many cases were caused by late distribution of polling materials and personnel, tardy payment of allowances to officials and security forces, and failures in logistics planning.

"The Commonwealth observers sometimes detected a lack of urgency to ensure that the polling schedule was met. Attention needs to be given to the further strengthening of election management, including refining the systems for delegated authority to the provincial and district levels, to ensure the necessary efficiency, oversight and accountability for a timely and effective poll," Natapei presented.

"For the Electoral Roll, the Group observed problems with the roll in all provinces visited. The proportion of voters turned away varied between areas, and there were multiple apparent causes including: the integrity of the electoral roll itself, confusion over names used by voters, a lack of clarity in the allocation of voters to specific Wards, and the limited ability of polling officials to verify enrolment information on polling day.

"The widespread disenfranchisement of citizens of Papua New Guinea who wished to vote is a serious problem that must be addressed through a more reliable and efficient voter registration and electoral roll management system including the incorporation of some form of voter identification, and better measures for verification and redress during polling.

"This issue has been repeatedly raised during past elections in Papua New Guinea, including by Commonwealth observer groups. It must be addressed as an urgent priority following the 2012 election."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Adoption of Minutes
  - a) April 16, 2012 Regular Board Meeting
  - b) May 31, 2012 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
- 1) Chair
- 2) Board Committees
  - a) FPA
  - b) ISA
  - c) LIA
  - d) CIP
  - e) Student Services & Parental/Community Programs (SSPCP)
  - f) AD HOC
- 3) Commissioner of Education
  - i. Financial Matters
    - a. Federal
    - b. Local
  - ii. Head Start Program
  - iii. Other Matters

IV. Unfinished Business
- 1. Sick Leave Donation Policy Amendment
- 2. School Calendar for SY 2012-2013

V. New Business
- 1. CNMI Consolidated Grant for SY 2012-2013
- 2. Resolution for Bank Signatories

VI. Executive Session[2]
- 1) Legal Updates
- 2) Personnel
- 3) Other matters

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

US Attorney General Holder to visit Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. will meet with Guam dignitaries and law enforcement during a brief visit on Monday.

U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco says Holder will hold short, closed-door meetings with community leaders and Guam law enforcement professionals.

He'll answer questions from local attorneys in a session that will be broadcast to a federal court in Saipan, where more attorneys will listen in.

District Court Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood says the attorneys submitted questions in advance.

The *Pacific Daily News* reported Saturday Holder is the first attorney general to visit the U.S. territory.

Holder will not take questions from local journalists during his visit because his tight schedule doesn't give him time for a press conference.

Traveler dies during Guam airport stopover

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—An elderly man traveling from Hong Kong to Honolulu died during a stop in Guam.

Guam International Airport officials say the traveler had a heart attack Tuesday and that rescue personnel tried to revive him.

Police say he arrived on a United Airlines flight.

United spokesman Koji Nagata tells *Pacific Daily News* the man was taken to a local hospital.

Guam Memorial Hospital Nursing Supervisor Cely Mangrobang says the 69-year-old man was dead upon arrival.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Konfitma 2012 Exercise

Are local emergency responders prepared to deal with hazardous materials released during a terrorist-style attack in the CNMI?

The U.S. Army Pacific Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team/CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package Training and Readiness Division, in coordination with the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and the Emergency Management Office, will be holding full-scale exercise called "Konfitma" in support of CNMI responders and 94th, 93rd, 92nd, and joint CST training exercise.

The exercise is scheduled on July 17-18 in several locations throughout Saipan and Tinian.

The purpose of Kofitma is to conduct a 36-hour all-hazard situational training exercise in order to create conditions to reinforce interoperability among local, state, federal, military, and private stakeholders. This purpose will serve as an interagency, multi-CST STX in the CNMI to maintain operational response procedures during an incident of national significance.

For more information call CNMI Emergency Operations Center dispatch at 237-8000, Homeland Security Office at 664-2216 or 911.

The community is reminded that this is an exercise and not to be alarmed. ***(PR)***

Free Army Reserve Enrichment Camp

The Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Youth Enrichment Camp on July 23-27 2012, at Marianas Trekking for children ages 4-12. For more information contact Travis Mckinney at (808) 438-1600 Ext. 3374 or email travis.mckinney@us.army.mil, or Chris Nelson at 323-8735. ***(PR)***

Free films every Friday at the Park

The American Memorial Park presents family-friendly films twice a day for free every Friday, at 2pm and 6pm, in the Visitors Center auditorium.

- July 20: Wall-E (2pm and 6pm)
- July 27: Meet The Robinsons (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 3: Ice Age (2pm)
- Aug. 10: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 17: Rio (2pm and 6pm)

The regularly scheduled First Friday Films at 6:30pm will continue. ***(AMP)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY PREPAID METERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters for CUC Power Division, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-12-020, Supply & Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on July 24, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 20, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
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PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF POLICE PERSONAL EQUIPMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, Port of Saipan is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of the following Police Personal Equipment:

- 16 ea. ~ Bulletproof Vests ~ Level IV
- 16 ea. ~ Ceramic Plates (for Level IV Vests)
- 51 ea. ~ Concealable Bulletproof Vests ~ Level III

All Bulletproof Vests must be in compliance with National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standards.

The List for the Procurement and Delivery of Police Personal Equipment will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on July 16th , 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of Police Personal Equipment." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, August 10th, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals received unsealed or unlabeled will not be considered. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) Transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3562 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers. Proposers must guarantee that any or all equipment found defective at the time of delivery must replace equipment within 60 days from date of first delivery.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of police personal equipment is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. All items listed above will be used at the Seaport Division.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

07/09/2012
DATE

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DRINKING WATER & CUBE ICE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of bottled drinking water & cube ice for CUC Administration and Operation Division Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-021, Supply & Delivery of Drinking Water & Cube Ice", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 9, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-022

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to supply fuel for CUC's light vehicle and heavy equipment on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-022, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicle & Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 14, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 16, 2001

Mobil vows to share with cleanup costs

Mobil Oil Marianas Islands Inc. has requested the environmental consultants in charge of remediation work at the Saipan International Airport to continue cleanup action in relation to the January 2001 jet fuel leak. Mobil Oil Marianas leases facilities at the Saipan airport from the Commonwealth Ports Authority in order to supply the airport with jet fuel. In January 2001, it was discovered that around 6,000 gallons of fuel had leaked from a tank as a result of a faulty gasket.

Bill boosting status of CPA cops, firemen goes to Teno

One signature more and Commonwealth Ports Authority police officers and firefighters will now be considered at par with other CNMI law enforcement officers. This, after the House of Representatives passed on second and final reading Senate Bill 12-094 that will accord CPA police officers the same statutory authority to carry firearms and make arrests and enjoy the same benefits enjoyed by other law enforcers of the Commonwealth. The measure, which was authored by Sen. Edward U. Maratita, now goes to the desk of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for his signature. The Senate earlier passed the bill on January 25 this year.

July 16, 2002

Fund investments drop to $323M

Reflecting the backlash arising from a string of corporate scandals in the U.S. markets, the market value of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund's overseas investments nose-dived in June by 5.2 percent, plunging by more than $17 million when compared to May figures. The bearish mood in the U.S. stock markets drove down May's $340.85 million to $323.14 million in JuneÑjust over two million dollars higher than the October 2001 figure of $321.70 million. Surprisingly, though, large capital equities did well, posting a 5.15 percent growth from month-ago figures. This translates to an increase from $198.54 million to $208.77 million. Much of the losses were absorbed by investments in small capital and international equities. Small caps slid from $40.92 million in May to $39.84 million in June, or a drop of 2.63 percent, while international equities posted an even steeper dive of 5.39 percent, from $24.58 million to $23.26 million.

Fund to liquidate $3M of its investments

The Board of Trustees of the Retirement Fund has decided to liquidate $3 million of its equities investment for emergency purposes and to minimize its exposure on a poorly performing money manager. This follows in the wake of a Merrill Lynch presentation in yesterday's board meeting, where the remaining four trustees were updated on the current status of the Fund's investment portfolio. With the Fund unable to access its $5.5 million in Time Certificates of Deposit at the Bank of Saipan, Fund Administrator Karl T. Reyes said it would be prudent to have some other liquid assets that are easily accessible as a form of emergency fund.

July 16, 2003

CPA: Inbound passengers still answer SARS questionnaire

The Commonwealth Ports Authority would continue to implement its monitoring and surveillance procedures on inbound passengers from others countries, particularly those hit by the severe acute respiratory syndrome virus. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said that, despite the lifting of the travel ban against SARS affected countries, the ports authority, together with the airline companies and the Department of Public Health, will continue to check on arriving passengers to determine whether they are suffering from any of the symptoms of SARS. Salas explained that CPA and airline personnel will continue fielding questionnaires while airlines are en route to the Northern Marianas, a procedure that has been enforced since April 2003, after the CNMI government imposed the travel ban.

CUC sues Rota waterline contractor

With the construction of a government waterline system on Rota still lagging, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has taken to court the contractor that had won the contract for its failure to complete the project. The CUC is asking the court through lawyer Brien Sers Nicholas that it be awarded damages to be assessed against the contractor, Western Equipment, Inc. The utility firm also seeks damages from California firm American Contractors Indemnity Company, which had issued a performance bond to ensure that the project would be completed.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF DIVE RESCUE EQUIPMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, Port of Saipan is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of the following Dive Rescue Equipment:

- 12 ea. ~Gauge Console
- 12 ea. ~ Dive Watch Computer w/transmitter
- 12 ea. ~ MK 25T/S600T (Regulator)
- 12 ea. ~ R295 Octo
- 12 ea. ~ Gauge on a Console Imperial
- 12 ea. ~ Power Inflator
- 12 ea. ~.5mm Wetsuit
- 12 ea. ~ Mouthpiece
- 12 ea. ~ Mask
- 12 ea. ~ Snorkel
- 12 ea. ~ Fins ll
- 12 ea. ~ Boots
- 12 ea. ~ Boots Short
- 12 ea. ~ Tank Bangers
- 12 ea. ~ Gloves
- 12 ea. ~ SL4 Underwater Lights
- 12 ea. ~ C4 Underwater Lights
- 12 ea. ~ Compact Torch
- 12 ea. ~ Knife Drop Point
- 12 ea. ~ Accessories for Console
- 12 ea. ~ Reef Hooks
- 12 ea. ~ Hose Holder
- 2 ea. ~ Dive master Slate
- 2 ea. ~ Dive Flad (innovative)
- 2 ea. ~ Ring Kit and Pickers
- 2 ea. ~ Magnetic Slates with Holster
- 5 ea. ~ Safety Throw
- 5 ea. ~ Rescue Throw
- 2 ea. ~ Inner Tube
- 5 ea. ~ Mini Underwater Lights
- 2 ea. ~ Tank Checker
- 1 ea. ~ Tool Kit
- 12 ea. ~ Dry Case
- 12 ea. ~ Signal Tube

The List of the Dive Equipment will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on July 16th, 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of Dive Rescue Equipment." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, August 10th, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals received unsealed or unlabeled will not be considered. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) Transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3562 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers. Proposers must guarantee that any or all equipment found defective at the time of delivery must replace equipment within 60 days from date of first delivery.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of the Dive Rescue Equipment is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. All items listed above will be used at the Seaport Division.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

07/09/2012
DATE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

WATER TASK FORCE
IFB12-GOV-087

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Leak Detection and Repairs from Tekken St in Susupe to Orchid St. in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Contractor shall identify, report, and repairs leaks in the water distribution system, to include but not limited to mainline leaks, residential meter leaks, fire hydrants, mainline valve leaks, and other appurtenant parts of the distribution system. Contractor shall also report and repair or replace inoperable fire hydrant and valves. Contractor shall identify the models, make and part number or identification of any existing meters, hydrants or valves, which were repaired.
- Installation of valves, air relief valves, blow-off valves, fire hydrants and fittings.
- Contractor will, for each identified leak, submit a repair schedule and cost estimate for the repair including restoration of the repair sites (cushioning, backfilling/compaction and asphalting). Pavement restoration, predominantly along the road traffic, shall be expeditiously restored initially using lean concrete as basecourse. Compaction test must be submitted prior to paving.
- Contractor shall identify, report, and resolve areas of potential backflow within the water distribution system. Contractor, upon notification from WTF as forwarded from CUC, shall investigate complaints of low water pressure in the distribution system. This may indicate a substantial leak has occurred.
- Contractor will trace unrecorded service lines to their point of origin.
- Contractor shall identify, report, cut and cap abandoned lines and laterals serving vacant buildings or other facilities.
- Contractor shall provide a detailed daily report to WTF and CUC to include findings, cause of leak, steps taken to resolve the problem, materials used and type of testing performed.
- Contractor shall check all water customer service and shall report to WTF and CUC overflowing cisterns/tanks for CUC-Water Division enforcement.
- Contractor shall isolate the line subjected for repairs and shall take various pressure readings at different times before and after the repair. Contractor shall submit a pressure reading logs. Contractor shall ensure that all existing customers affected by line isolation are reconnected to the water system.
- Asphalt Road restoration.
- Repairs procedures shall be in compliance with the requirements of the CUC Water Division, DEQ, AWWA Standards, OSHA regulations and USDOT FHWA standards.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after July 9, 2012 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 AM, on July 20, 2012, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.
All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on July 19, 2012.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB12-GOV-087". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time August 7, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time August 7, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 7, 2012, and must be received no later than 2:00 PM August 16, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, August 16, 2012. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on August 7, 2012.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF POLICE OPERATIONAL GEARS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, Port of Saipan is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of the following Police Operational Gears:

- 16 ea. ~ Tactical Helmets
- 16 ea. ~ ASP/Flashlight/OC Pouch
- 16 ea. ~ Yoke Sling
- 16 ea. ~ Small Utility Pouch
- 16 ea. ~ Double Magazine Pouches
- 16 ea. ~ Handcuff Case
- 16 ea. ~ Shotgun Shell Pouch
- 16 ea. ~ Shotgun Double Handgun Pouch
- 51 ea. ~ Tactical PDU Class B Uniform
- 51 ea. ~ Tactical TDU Pants
- 51 ea. ~ Tactical Shorts
- 51 ea. ~ Tactical Polo
- 51 ea. ~ Pelican 7060 Briefs
- 51 ea. ~ Tactical Caps
- 51 ea. ~ Under Amour Tactical Polo
- 51 ea. ~ Under Armour Tactical Mirage
- 51 ea. ~ Under Armour Trail Boot
- 51 ea. ~ Under Armour Breech Boot
- 51 ea. ~ Under Armour Combat Glove
- 51 ea. ~ Belts
- 51 ea. ~ Holster
- 51 ea. ~ Duty Starter
- 51 ea. ~ ASP Rotating Holster

The List for the Procurement and Delivery of Police Operational Gears will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on July 16th , 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of Police Operational Gears." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, August 10th, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals received unsealed or unlabeled will not be considered. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) Transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3562 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers. Proposers must guarantee that any or all equipment found defective at the time of delivery must replace equipment within 60 days from date of first delivery.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of Police Operational Gear is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. All items listed above will be used at the Seaport Division.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

07/09/2012
DATE

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS/TRAILERS/ACCESSORIES PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, Port of Saipan is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of the following personal watercrafts, trailers and accessories:

- 6 ea. ~ Personal Watercrafts

Specifications

Rider Capacity:	2 persons
Length:	130.7"
Width:	48-49"
Height:	45-46"
Dry Weight:	809-812 lbs.
Fuel Capacity:	16-18 Gallons
Storage Capacity:	30 Gallons

Glove Box
Hydro Turf Mats
Automatic Bilge System/Electronic Bilge
Chrome Accents
Ergolock System/Adjustable Rear Sponsons/Trim Tabs

Engine Specifications

Engine Type:	Supercharged with external intercooler
Pump Type:	155mm High Pressure/axial flow
Fuel Type Recommended:	Regular Unleaded
Displacement:	1500-1800 cc

Electronic Fuel Injection
T3 Haul
IBR (Intelligent Brake and Reverse) System
Quick Shift Trim System
Re-boarding Step

Other Options
Slow Mode
Cruise Control
Depth Finder
Fold-Down Step
Removable Dry Bag for Front Storage
Protective Cover
Safety Kit
Fire Extinguisher

- 6 ea. ~ Trailers for the Personal Watercraft

Specifications
Aluminum Single PWC Trailer with ST175/80D-13 Tires On Aluminum Wheel with Tongue Jack

- 12 ea. ~ 20ft. Heavy Dock Lines
- 12 ea. ~ Telescopic Paddles
- 12 ea. ~ Wrap-it-up Rope Wraps
- 12 ea. ~ Pull up cleats
- 12 ea. ~ Emergency Tow Lines
- 24 ea. ~ Custom Deluxe Series Tie Downs
- 24 ea. ~ Fenders 22" White/Blue
- 12 ea. ~ Rope Float
- 6 ea. ~ Multi Color Registration Kits

The List for the Procurement and Delivery of Personal Watercrafts, Trailers and Accessories will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on July 16th , 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of Personal Watercrafts, Trailers and Accessories." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, August 10th, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals received unsealed or unlabeled will not be considered. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) Transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3562 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers. Proposers must guarantee that any or all equipment found defective at the time of delivery must replace equipment within 60 days from date of first delivery.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of watercrafts, trailers and accessories is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. All items listed above will be used at the Seaport Division.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

07/09/2012
DATE

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The Libyan model

In choosing a slate of pro-Western moderates to form a new national assembly, voters in Libya's first elections since the ouster of former dictator Moammar Gadhafi last year have shown that the rise of democracy in the Arab world doesn't automatically lead to governments dominated by Islamists.

Preliminary tallies from the balloting Saturday indicate a coalition led by Mahmoud Jibril, an American-trained engineer who served as interim prime minister of the rebel government in Benghazi, holding a substantial lead over a rival bloc backed by the Muslim Brotherhood. The success of Mr. Jibril's party marks a departure from the outcome of popular uprisings in countries such as Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, where Islamist parties have dominated parliamentary elections, and suggests that nations in the region are capable of developing quite different paths to democratic self-rule.

The elections, which some had feared would spark a breakdown in order or civil war, were not perfect by any means. Voters in some parts of the country had to brave isolated incidents of violence to cast their ballots. Rebel militias in several eastern towns reportedly attacked polling sites there, fearing the elections would lead to their region being dominated by the western part of the country. But overall, Libyans defied efforts to keep them away from polls, and the interim government said 94 percent of the country's polling places had opened, with turnout of more than 60 percent.

The vote was held to elect a 200-member assembly that initially was charged with governing the country for the next 18 months and drafting a constitution. At the last minute, however, the latter power was stripped from the body to placate Easterners' fears the document would favor the more populous West. (Separate elections will be held later to choose a smaller panel for that task, to be drawn equally from all sections of the country.) Saturday's assembly vote was to seat a governing body composed of 100 members from the West, 60 from the East and 40 from the South.

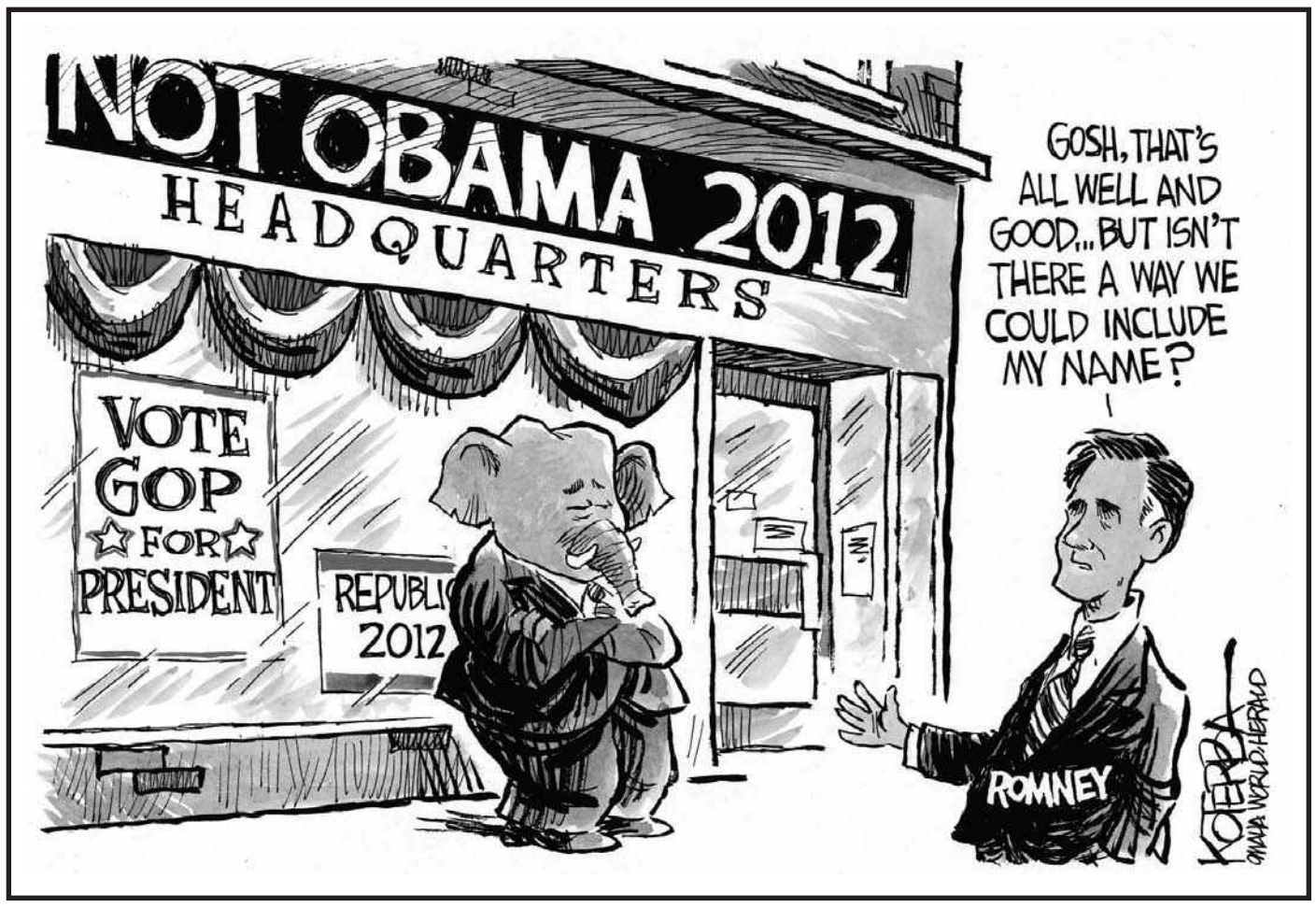
Ironically, Libyan's transition to democracy may have been made somewhat easier than those in other nations in the region due to the fact that Gadhafi ruthlessly crushed dissent during his four decades in power, leaving the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups less able to organize a viable opposition. Nor did Gadhafi's fall leave Libya with an entrenched military that remained loyal to the previous regime and eager to preserve the status quo, as in Egypt. The very fact that Gadhafi had embodied the Libyan state in his own person meant that once he was out of the picture the country could embark on a new path with virtually a clean slate.

Mr. Jabril has deftly negotiated the opportunity offered by Libya's unique situation. Although his Islamist rivals sought to brand him as a "liberal" and a "secularist," many Libyans seemed to welcome a less ideological approach. He deliberately refrained from labeling his opponents as extremists, promising instead that Islamic law would be an important inspiration for future legislation, but not the only one.

The outcome vindicates the U.S.' cautious decision to play only a limited role in backing the rebels, who would have been crushed without the help of America and its allies in the region. As it is, the U.S. can claim it supported the Libyan people's desire to free themselves from a brutal tyrant without having its fingerprints all over the new government.

If Libya's experiment works it could prove a moderate counterweight to Islamist influence elsewhere by showing there can

See LIBYAN on Next Page



Farming as a business—its time has come

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Farming in the CNMI can be our second largest industry behind tourism. Without trying to be insulting I feel that too many of our local farmers consider farming as a means of either putting extra food on the table or as a hobby. How many regard farming as a business?

In the United States there are over 2.2 million farms covering an area of 922 million acres. As a result the U.S. is the leading global exporter of agricultural goods. For example, it is estimated that in 2012 the U.S. is expected to export over $131 billion! What do those farmers know that we don't? Their average salary is $56,000 annually.

I truly believe that we in the CNMI have the potential to lift ourselves up to prosperity again while using the beautiful fertile soil that we have to its maximum. Guam and other countries are eager to purchase the mountains of crops we can grow with a bit of serious effort on our part. So I am going to spend the next few paragraphs discussing this.

Agribusiness is a generic term for the various businesses involved in food production, including farming and contract farming, seed supply, agrichemicals, farm machinery, wholesale and distribution, processing and marketing and retail sales. In the United States agribusiness is one of the most profitable businesses and a large contributor to exports. We also have a great potential.

Let's examine the necessary ingredients needed to succeed in developing a viable agribusiness in the CNMI. First, do we have the necessary arable land? Yes, according to the USDA census, we have over 117,760 acres of farm land as compared to Guam with only 13,376 acres. This means that we have over nine times the amount of farmable land available than Guam. Yet, we are currently farming only a mere 3.4 percent of this huge amount of farmable land. So it is obvious that we have the natural resource-farmable land.

The second necessary item is people to farm the land. My research shows that most of us have lost the desire for farming, preferring to work in offices and receiving a salary. However this type of activity is what has caused us to drop into the economic depression we find ourselves in. Unless we wakeup and change our attitude we will sink deeper. But where will we find the people to do farming?

In examining the life of a farmer, it is hard work yet very rewarding. Basically the farmer is an entrepreneur. He decides what his soil should produce; he decides how much it should produce; he decides when to work by scheduling according to the crop he is growing; he also controls where and how he will sell his crops, and he can control his costs by how he plans his work. In other words, a farmer is actually a small businessman.

In the past, many farmers had non-resident workers to assist, but many of them are gone. However many states in the mainland have the same problem, including Hawaii. But farming can be a family business to include the wife, children and relatives. One source of labor can be high school students after school hours. They would be happy to do so and at the same time develop a feel for farming. Another is retirees with time on their hands. Not only will they enjoy being out in the fresh air but will have a purpose instead of sitting at home doing nothing.

I know you will smile at the next suggestion for labor. Why not utilize non-serious crime committing prisoners who can be released for day labor. In this manner they can earn money for their personal needs or save it for when they are released. Is this a dumb suggestion or perhaps worth looking into?

Another suggestion for a labor pool are the thousands of people on food stamps. Even if we can get about 100 people from this group to work even part time on the farms—Wow! What a great source! So you see, if we really want to develop our agribusiness, it is possible. We do have ample manpower.

Next we need a good source of seeds for our crops to grow strong and plentiful. There are many good sources for whatever crop we wish. This is no problem.

The other problems such as water, farm equipment can be easily solved once we decide to farm. I will not go into these matters because unless we develop a strong desire to farm, it will be a futile discussion.

To me the most important thing is the market that we have lying close by waiting for our production of food. Guam can easily absorb almost any amount we can produce. Remember the military also is a great potential customer. How to get the products to market?

Without air cargo transportation it will be difficult, but this problem is being solved. As mentioned before, in a few weeks Arctic Circle Air Services will begin its operation between Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam. It will haul only cargo, not passengers. It will have scheduled flights several times a day and several times a week. It is estimated that this service will greatly open a totally new export market. Yes, I know it is taking a long time. There are so many regulations to follow. But it is happening. You will be informed the day we begin the service.

Guam is waiting for our produce. In fact, even the farmers' cooperative market president has promised to make sure that our produce will be sold in Guam. Many hotels and supermarkets as well as the military are ready to accept our goods. We would be totally foolish to not seize this golden opportunity.

You will hear more about this subject as we progress into it. I realize that perhaps only a handful of farmers will respond, but that is okay. Those few will set the pace and prove that agriculture can be a profitable business. I invite persons interested in joining with our group to do commercial farming please call me and let's talk.

One of the most assuring way for it to be profitable for serious

See FARMING on Next Page

Tai fondu kahan iya Marianas

Imaprediktan matai programan man-ritirau gi halom dos años na tiempu humala attensionta ni umatisa mas chatsaga na mensahe para i linahyan.

Lau i seriosu na taya' fondu i pumalolo'pu' i gobietnamenton iya Marianas pagu. Estague' i te'ug na problema ni sige ha' maletke 'sino mafat keluye.

I dibin gobietnu gaige mas ke $350 miyon. Gi hilu' este, ti ha hulat apas hospitat, medical referral, medicaid, nesessidat tat ahensia kumu PSS yan otru siha obligasion.

Taya' ha nanañga este na asuntu solu tiempu 'nai i man-ma'gas, sin ditension, debi u admite publikamiente na brok (broke) i kahan iya Marianas.

Este na estau ti kumeke ilegña uttimun i tanu'. Lau trastes manihante para u siña tuma'lon umaregla usun appenanas na fondun publiku.

I anunsiun para u mana' ta'lu tatte i 80 oras na oran empleau gobietnu dididi' kulan taftaf machalapun. Ma-annunsia sineda' salape' ni ti marikokohe ($11 miyon) ya esta sige i geran para umapatten ñaihon. Taigue gi kaha, dispues mas ke $350 miyon na dibi mientras mas menos i rinikohen kontribusion tax. Para manu hit yan un' trompison 'nai mampos gueku i kahan publiku?

Para mona, piot gi otru sakan, mas kohu siempre i rinikohen tax sa' sige ha' i bisnis ha huchum siha. Mas menos i kontribusion tax ginen i bisnis. Guse'ña man-abende hit dadeg yan 'an mahlog lapes gi kantun chalan deste iya Oleai katan esta Micro Beach.

I asuntu fotmat ya dimas mohon i gobietnu de u sige lumiliku' guihe lagu, haf' mohon na ti sumaga para u ta'lun umatan i mampos chafleg na kinalamten ekonomia guine?

Kau este solu rekueddoña i miserable na modun lina'la' para i tautau siha? Manu 'nai ha pega i ofresimientun "better times?"

■■■

Gi silensiun pueñge

Gi halom katma yan silensiun pueñge hu huhuñgog potsun i tautau siha gi señgsoñg. Siña ha' man-deskakansa lau kada ratu manpinañgun ni primera estotbu pot futtunan familian niha gi halom chubaskun didog na chinatsaga.

Inipus bahu i rinikohen kontribusion tax. Ha punu' abilidat gobietnu gi apas obligasioña siha. I chumahlau este na chinatsaga i tautau siha gi señgsoñg ni hagas man-ensinahyau ausiliu gi hechuran sattun na disposision asuntun linahyan. Taya' a'anog na guaha este na animu.

Huñgan, esta ha tutuhon i pattidan republican mañufa' gi chalan politika na sakan. Atotgante para u atrebigue' muna' mamtu' i hagas an' ñgañgasña na lamug bagasu. Ti komprendiyun lau mauleg ta pulan haf' mas para u totbus ñaihon i publiku.

Dispues, guaha lokue' fumaisen-yu' haf' na sige man-malagu i kandidatu siha ginen i republican. Ti presisu manadan birada: atan i trompison diskuidu ni ha pega gi ha'anen i tautau siha. Deste mautut sueddu, pinadesen ti asegurau na pagamientun man-ritirau, taya' fondu para i hospitat, medical referral, scholarship; ma-amut familia ni primet gima' niha; gueku na pottanmoneda para otru siha obligasion familia. Estague' dumulalag i kandidatu siha ginen i republican sa' mattu gi makat madefende i ti defendiyun.

■■■

Otru asuntu siha

'Nai man-a'amku' hit, i hagas fuetsudu na fangu'otta maliñgu. I fitme na gigat timota madirite. I fan atanta, maya'. Dispues, sige mas maribaha kuetpun tatautau-ta. Guaha lokue' 'nai kulan hamalefa hit. Lau estague' uttimu eskalera 'nai ta gacha' i plaset oru (golden years) gi linala'ta. Este na pañgpañg napu ti tulaikayun. U saga parehu para siempre.

■■■

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Sige amigu-hu Magoo man-ñgañgas bukayu (kanden niyog ni mana'ye kulot chukulate na asukat). Ha tanchu' i rasimun manha, ma'sun yan pontan yan todu chechettun gi troñkun niyog. Konfotmeyu' na i mas gai bali na troñku ni sumustene gi guelu yan guela pot siglu.

Mauleg i chigo'ña magimen para u pañgun titanosta. Deste sensin manha, alalag ma'sun yan sensin pontan dañkulu usun niha. I mantikaña ti parehu yan mantikan ga'ga'. Sumen paire lokue' tikan niyog piot ya mapreparan modun antes. Un' dañkulun bisnis este giya Filipinas. I produktu tat patte gi tanu ti ha hatme.

Estague' un' produktun tanu' ni sumen mauleg salapeña piot i tika ni siña maprepara yan fina' paupau para metkau gi bisita siha. Adahe na kuentus manhuyuñg ginen man-bihan Japones pot masoda' na sumen mauleg na'yen lañan niyog gi lasas tautau an tiempun maneñgheñg. Unu ha' ha nesessita: pega mona i primet pasu ya un' tutuhun sa' ti un' lache.

■■■

I amesta gi relasion tautau sumen dañkulu benefisioña. Siña ha' un' chandan ñaihon lau i mas ti un' añgoghu na afamaulegmu gaige gi fihon-mu 'nai un' fagcha'e didog na chinatsaga. Pagu yangin para un' fa' basula, pues repara sa' gi uttimu besis, mas dañkulu balutanmu ke guiya. Piot ya tinatiye este ni minaipen tautau. Maulegña prestan taki' galagu gi kantun chalan.

FARMING

From Page 10

farmers is that a group has been formed that will contract with each farmer to purchase any amount of goods grown. A contract and a price will be negotiated before the produce is even grown. In this manner the farmer is guaranteed that his produce will be sold the minute he delivers it at an agreed upon price. This completes the circle. The farmer grows and the buyer handles the wholesale and the cargo company handles the delivery. Yes, farming can be a profitable business and a great source of income.

Imagine the next time we go to Guam and eat in a restaurant and find out that we are eating vegetables and fruit grown in Saipan! What a proud feeling! We will move from a feeling of helplessness to one of pride.

There is more to this story but let me close with a bit of research concerning the world of agriculture. Numerous studies and surveys show that people engaged in agriculture experience far greater satisfaction and happiness than their urban counterparts in terms of marital happiness, family functioning, spouse appreciation, personal safety and community involvement. In addition the agricultural society has been a source of so much of our heritage (both indigenous and non-indigenous) and national identity. Simply put—the quality of life is better.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1787: "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness."

Despite any economic depression, people must eat. Food never goes out of fashion. Agriculture can be our second biggest industry. Yes, farming can be a profitable business. Let's stop feeling so helpless. Let's go to work. Prosperity is waiting. All we have to do is screw up our determination and do it. We have the land; we have the market. But do we have the will and determination? You decide. Have a great week and keep SMILING!

LIBYAN

From Page 10

be more than one model for Arab democracy. At the same time, its example may compel Islamist governments to take a more pragmatic approach to issues that affect all countries in the region. Although for now Mr. Jibril is barred from holding elected office, he doubtless will be major voice in next phase of Libya's political transition, and his non-ideological stance may well enhance his prestige as a unifying figure.

However the final election results turn out, Libya's new government will face major challenges, including disarming the militias left over from last year's uprising, uniting the country under a central government, repairing the country's war-damaged physical infrastructure and developing economic policies that create jobs and opportunities for its citizens. The country is fortunate in that it enjoys significant oil wealth, but in order to fulfill the high hopes entrusted to its new government, its leaders will still have to show they can use that resource wisely in a way that benefits Libyans in all parts of the country.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Solicitors for life and CNMI sports

I read the complaints about the people soliciting money on the street corners. I was not pleased with the complaints but I bit my lip. I have even turned around on my motorcycle to donate as many of my former students would be out there and I can't turn them down. But now that there is Legislation to stop this I must speak for those who can't speak for themselves in this public forum—they are children and family members of people who are seriously ill.

First of all, the implied meaning of panhandling is begging for money but that is money for personal use of the person doing the begging. Panhandling is not even taking place at these street corners because they are soliciting money to help someone else or a team. Those who are complaining about the people on the street corners have created a distortion in the meaning and interpretation of what is being done on our streets resulting in another quagmire for the CNMI. The people complaining need to know the CNMI is broke and our government is even begging—duh! Telling them to fundraise for thousands of dollars when the average family can hardly make ends meet is ridiculous! If you don't want to donate then don't, but don't try to stop people from trying to make a difference for the CNMI or their family member who is very sick.

The people on these corners are students trying to fulfill their athletic dreams for the CNMI and themselves. The people on these corners are family members and friends trying to get enough money to save someone's life. The people on these corners represent the true spirit of love for the CNMI, their sport and most importantly their family member or friend. So if the government is going to stop them from soliciting, then the government had better be prepared to explain why our teams can't travel anymore or come up with the cash. The government had better also be ready to tell dying people why they can't solicit help anymore on the street corners.

I'm sure the people who complained have experienced real panhandlers on the mainland and they can be a real nuisance and even dangerous. But the environment and society of the CNMI is not quit the same as the mainland. If fact, many locals I know are ashamed to beg for themselves but they will solicit for a worthy cause all day. Maybe those who complained didn't really understand the culture of the CNMI because we shouldn't be rushing to make local laws in the CNMI just because other states have these laws. But more importantly the government can't afford to help these students and the sick people who have lost their insurance. I was like—"how dare you tell someone who is dying that their relatives can solicit donations on the streets."

The only legislation that is needed is a "free soliciting permit with instructions for safe solicitations on the street corner from DPS" for safety and to prevent real panhandlers from being on the corners and ruining it for those students and the sick because they are soliciting for worthy causes—a much better law. The only concern should be that "no one is harassed or enters the street when the light is green."

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

Wave of criticism

Last week had an important day for France concerning its past leaders. Coincidentally in Saipan it was reported that three prominent leaders of the CNMI private sector railed against CNMI government leaders for their total ineptitude in financial management and budget planning abilities.

A local ophthalmologist spelled out how local leaders have a difficult time understanding federal matching funding and budgeting in regards to Medicaid.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce president stated to the Legislature to get real and get to work for the people. He also seemed extremely frustrated at the how government leaders look at the private sector as an unlimited revenue source

A well-respected attorney spoke out on the need for the Legislature to start reducing spending on all nonessential services. Then he went on to say if there is not enough money to pay what is owed and keep the government open (and there is not enough money now) the Legislature has to figure out what are the essential government agencies and funds only them.

It is highly unlikely that these well respected honorable individuals are in cahoots or in some sort of partnership. Nonetheless they each criticized the CNMI government leaders in one way or another.

It appears that the citizens of the CNMI are becoming frustrated and unsatisfied at the performance of their government leaders. It will be interesting if any current elected officials will try to run on their record or just concentrate on rallying friends and family. It will also be interesting to see how the CNMI voters respond. Happy belated Bastille Day.

Juan Cruz
Austin, Texas

A wonderful experience

After two years of being busy, too tired because of working I decided to attend the hotel street market. It was a wonderful way to spend my Thursday night.

With family and meeting friends there, I enjoyed the different groups that danced, but I loved the last group the most.

They had so much fun dancing, the music was beautiful and the men dancing wearing red cloth reminded me of good times in the past and how important it is to keep the traditions that is part of the people of this island.

It is okay to dance different dances of different islands. But to dance to songs that have been handed down through the years by the many talented songwriters both in the past and present is priceless. Keep up the good work.

Julian Edyn
San Antonio

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲89 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

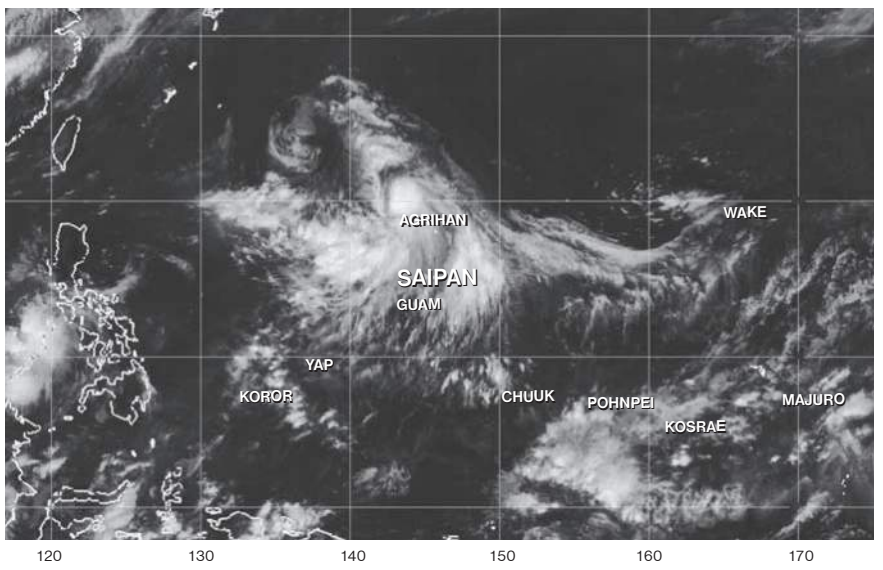
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲83	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲57	▼53
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼84
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲71	▼59
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲91	▼76
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼58
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲81	▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼69
Salem	Sunny	▲79	▼57
San Francisco	Sunny	▲59	▼52
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲84	▼71
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northwestward from a low-level circulation centered northwest of Pagan at 19N143E to end near 25N138E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of the circulation and to the northwest of the Marianas within 130 miles of a line from 20N133E to 16N141E to 18N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found to the east of the circulation within 100 miles of a line from 25N141E to just east of the Marianas at 14N148E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers near Koror within 90 miles of a line from 10N134E to 6N137E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 6N from 152E to 161E and near Majuro east of a line from 9N170E to 4N172E to EQ178E. An upper-level low centered west of Wake Island at 20N161E is triggering isolated thunderstorms within 50 miles of a line from 20N161E to 20N164E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:10 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:09 AM	4:24 PM
Tuesday	3:59 AM	5:13 PM
Wednesday	4:51 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday	5:43 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	7:30 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Visa, MasterCard in $6B settlement over card fees

AP

This Sept. 5, 2007, file photo shows credit card decals on a store window in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles

NEW YORK (AP)—Visa, MasterCard and major banks agreed to pay retailers at least $6 billion to settle a long-running lawsuit that alleged the card issuers conspired to fix the fees that stores pay to accept credit cards. As part of the settlement, announced late Friday, stores from Rite Aid to Kroger will be allowed to charge customers more if they pay using a credit card.

The pact, which is being called by lawyers involved in the case the largest antitrust settlement in U.S. history, is seen as a major victory for merchants that have long complained about the billions of dollars in so-called "swipe" or "interchange" fees that they pay to banks for purchases made using plastic. But at a time when shoppers increasingly are using credit and debit cards, merchants will face a dilemma: Whether to charge shoppers extra for using plastic, and if so, how to do so without angering them.

Marilyn Landis, who was last year's chairman of the National Small Business Association, said that the settlement is a victory for small businesses across the country because it could ultimately lead to banks lowering the fees they charge stores for customers' credit card purchases.

Landis, who owns Pittsburgh-based financial services firm Basic Business Concepts, said that would be a big relief. She's now paying 3.75 percent each time a customer pays with a credit card. If bank card companies reduce the fees they charge her to 2.75 percent, she would save a dollar on every $100 in sales.

"That's huge," she said.

According to the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail group, swipe fees costs for stores total about $30 billion per year. Mallory Duncan, senior vice president and general counsel for the group, said the settlement is a step in the right direction.

"What we need are changes in the rules that bring about transparency and competition that would be here for years to come," he said.

The dispute between stores and banks dates back to 2005. That's when large retailers, including Kroger Co., Safeway Inc. and Walgreen Co. began filing price-fixing lawsuits against Visa, MasterCard and other banks.

The retailers claimed the credit card issuers worked together to fix the fees that stores pay to accept credit and debit cards. The fees, which vary depending on the type of store and the type of card issues, average about 2 percent of the price of a purchase.

Visa and MasterCard make money on the fees that stores pay for each customer that uses credit or debit cards for their purchases. The fees are set by card processing networks but collected by, and split with, the banks that issue the cards.

The card companies long have defended the fees they charge stores. They say stores benefit from being able to accept credit and debit cards from customers, who often spend more when they're using plastic instead of cash or checks.

Retailers fought to charge customers who use plastic for their purchases extra. They've argued that the ability to charge customers who use plastic more for their purchases would reduce their costs for accepting the cards.

But up until now, Visa and MasterCard have banned stores from charging customers who use credit cards more. Merchants, however, have been allowed to offer customers discounts if they pay with cash. Some gas stations do this, for example.

As part of the settlement, credit card companies have agreed to reduce swipe fees for eight months. The temporary reprieve on fees is valued at $1.2 billion. The settlement does not apply to debit cards, which have grown in popularity for small-value transactions.

"These new rules will give merchants the tools they need to put pressure on the credit card networks to lower interchange or swipe fees, which are the second-or third-highest cost of doing business for many retailers," said Patrick J. Coughlin, senior trial counsel at Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, and one of the lawyers for the plaintiffs.

Blackberry maker loses patent suit over software

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

A federal jury in San Francisco has found beleaguered Blackberry maker Research in Motion Ltd. liable for $147.2 million in damages for infringing on patents held by Mformation Technologies Inc.

Amar Thakur, a lawyer for Mformation, said Saturday that the verdict late Friday followed a three-week trial and a week of deliberations by an eight-person jury.

Mformation, of Edison, N.J., sued Research in Motion in October 2008, alleging that Canada-based RIM infringed on its 1999 invention for remotely managing wireless devices. Mformation's software allows companies to remotely access employee cell phones to do software upgrades, change passwords or to wipe data from phones that have been stolen.

Officials at RIM, which has been struggling with plummeting sales, a declining stock and other problems, did not provide a comment Saturday.

Thakur said the jury ruled that Research in Motion should pay his client $8 for each of the 18.4 million Blackberrys that were connected to the Blackberry Enterprise Server, from the day the lawsuit was filed until the time of the trial. That's a total of $147.2 million.

He said the software at issue is the heart of the business of Mformation, a privately held company with several hundred employees.

"We believe it's been fundamental to the success of Research in Motion," Thakur told The Associated Press.

The patent at issue was filed in 2001 and issued in 2005, he said.

RIM, of Waterloo, Ontario, has previously denied it did anything wrong.

RIM has seen its business crumble as it increasingly loses market share. Today's consumers want smartphones that go far beyond handling e-mail and phone calls, with built-in cameras and other cool functions.

Particularly telling is the plunge in the Blackberry's U.S. market share. It's dropped from 41 percent in 2007, the year the first iPhone came out, to below 4 percent in the first three months of this year, according to research firm IDC.

Report: EU fund plans $120B Spain bailout

BERLIN (AP)—The European Union's bailout fund is working on a (EURO)100 billion ($120 billion) package to prop up Spanish banks, according to a report Saturday by German news weekly Der Spiegel.

A confidential draft plan by senior officials at the European Financial Stability Facility proposes an initial (EURO)30 billion payment to Spain at the end of July, the magazine said.

Of that, some (EURO)20 billion would go toward shoring up Spanish banks' short-term finances while another (EURO)10 billion would be reserved as a longer-term emergency buffer.

Three further payments totaling (EURO)45 billion would be made in November and December of this year, and in June 2013, Der Spiegel said. A Spanish Economy Ministry spokeswoman declined to comment on the report.

According to the report, up to (EURO)25 billion would also be made available to create a "bad bank" to buy up hard-to-sell debt.

This would be in line with a draft memorandum of understanding agreed by finance ministers from the 17 eurozone countries, which suggests that part of Spain's bank bailout should involve the segregation of billions in problematic assets to an "external asset management agency" to clean up Spanish banks' balance sheets.

Investors are becoming increasingly wary of placing money in Spanish banks, which are having to turn to the European Central Bank for financing. In June, Spanish bank borrowing from the ECB rose 17 percent from May. The accrued total as of the end of that month was (EURO)337 billion, 77 percent of all the money owed to the ECB and seven times the figure from June 2011.

The government on Friday approved its latest package of measures aimed at cutting (EURO)65 billion ($79 billion) off the budget deficit through 2015, the biggest deficit-reduction plan in recent Spanish history. The sweeping austerity measures include wage cuts and tax increases for a country struggling under a recession and an unemployment rate of near 25 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama presses Congress again to pass his tax plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is prodding Congress to "skip the unnecessary drama" and pass his proposal to extend Bush-era tax cuts to families earning less than $250,000 a year but not for those who earn more. In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama denounces what he calls "needless delays" and "partisan posturing." He has been pushing the idea hard all week, but congressional Republicans aren't buying it. Obama says that will "hold the vast majority of Americans and our entire economy hostage."

Chicago Tribune suspends use of Journatic content

CHICAGO (AP)—The *Chicago Tribune* has suspended its use of local news provider Journatic after discovering plagiarized and fabricated material in one of its stories, an announcement that was quickly followed by the resignation Saturday of one of the news service's senior staffers. Journatic's head of editorial, Mike Fourcher, said on his blog that he had resigned because of disagreements with senior staff over "ethical and management issues." The Chicago-based company has come under scrutiny since the public radio program "This American Life" reported two weeks ago that Journatic was using low-paid writers overseas to produce items under fake bylines that were published in print and online by several major U.S. newspapers.

NY Fed told of interest rate manipulation in '07

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve Bank of New York released documents Friday that show it learned five years ago of big banks understating their borrowing costs to manipulate a key interest rate. The documents also show Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who was then president of the New York Fed, urged the Bank of England to make the rate-setting process more transparent. A congressional panel requested the documents and is investigating manipulation of the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR) rate, which affects interest people pay on loans.

Nation

In Calif., more Latinos among strawberry growers

SALINAS, Calif. (AP)—Alejandro Ramirez was 15 when he crossed the U.S.-Mexico border to work alongside his father and brother in California's strawberry fields.

He spent 12 years toiling for a large grower, living with his wife and child in a garage, learning everything from pulling weeds to planting to driving a tractor. Now, Ramirez is a U.S. citizen who employs about 80 workers—all of them fellow Latinos—and grows his own strawberries on more than 100 acres in Salinas, one of California's key berry growing regions.

"This is my pride," Ramirez said on a recent afternoon, gazing over the rolling fields filled with neat rows of plants. "Twenty years ago, I had nothing. The strawberry is my life."

And not just his. Strawberries have given Latinos more ownership opportunities than any other major crop. Latinos now comprise two-thirds of strawberry growers in California, where 90 percent of the nation's strawberries are grown. Most growers of other major crops are white.

For the $2.3 billion strawberry industry, it's the second time a minority group has emerged from the fields in such a profound way. Japanese immigrants took over the industry as they grew in numbers after the turn of the 20th century.

Like the Japanese, many Latino growers are former pickers or the children of field workers who worked their way up to rent or own land.

Because strawberries can be grown on small plots nearly year-round and can yield more fruit and revenue per acre than most other agricultural crops, it's easier for immigrants to get into the business, said Hal Johnson, who has developed varieties of strawberries since 1955 for California's largest berry shipper-growers.

"There's hardly ever been a crop where an average picker who is aggressive and works hard can become a grower," Johnson said. "If he (a strawberry picker) is a hustler and brings along other pickers, he can develop his own little empire."

Before World War II, Japanese immigrants grew more than 90 percent of California's strawberries. But plant and soil diseases depleted their profits and the war brought the industry to a near-halt when Japanese growers were forced into internment camps by the U.S. government.

After the war, as pesticides helped eliminate diseases and researchers like Johnson came up with improved varieties, California's strawberry industry boomed. More recently, increased consumer demand for fresh fruit and organics led to farmers expanding the berry acreage.

Many of the post-war growers were Hispanic braceros, agricultural laborers who arrived under government contract, and other migrant Mexican workers, Johnson said.

"They saw the potential and grabbed on as hard as they could," he said.

Francisco Ponce migrated to California from Mexico in the 1950s to harvest grapes and vegetables. He soon began growing strawberries as a sharecropper on four acres in Watsonville.

His son, Rogelio Ponce Sr., grew up among the berries and later worked for a large grower, climbing the ranks to manager. Twenty years ago, he sold the family home and with a partner started growing strawberries on 25 acres.

Now his two sons, Rogelio Ponce Jr. and Steven Ponce—both college-educated—work alongside their father. The family farms 80 acres of conventional and 20 acres of organic strawberries, as well as 50 acres of raspberries on land where their mother's father, a bracero, once worked as a supervisor in an apple orchard.

AP

In this photo taken July 9, 2012, Alejandro Ramirez, left, and his son Alejandro Jr., right, pose among the family's hundred acre strawberry field in Salinas, Calif.

Penn Staters tire of unhappy scandal in the valley

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—They've had to reconcile the school whose sports programs vow "success with honor" with one of the worst scandals in sports history.

Almost inconceivably, they have been forced to reconsider the integrity and iconic status of the late Joe Paterno, the longtime football coach whose program helped turn a school focused on agriculture into one of the nation's biggest and most respected research universities.

In the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sex-abuse scandal—and a report that said school officials hid accusations against him—the school is bracing for civil lawsuits and perhaps NCAA sanctions. Meanwhile, Penn Staters are trying to protect Happy Valley, the almost-too-good-to-be-true nickname for the campus enclave at the foot of Mount Nittany and the protective veil the community feels in its central Pennsylvania home.

"I think it's one of the finest universities around and the crimes of a few doesn't dictate the university's reputation," said Craig Lehnowsky, whose son just finished getting three degrees in eight years. "If today was the day to decide where my son would go (to college), he'd be coming here."

Sandusky, Paterno's one-time top defensive coach, was charged in November with sexually preying on boys, some on campus, and was convicted last month on 45 charges.

Paterno died of cancer in January and wasn't charged, but he was fired by trustees days after the Nov. 5 grand jury report came out and Pennsylvania's state police commissioner said Paterno failed his "moral responsibility" to do more.

On Thursday, former FBI Director Louis Freeh, who was hired by the university's trustees to investigate, issued a report that said Paterno, former university president Graham Spanier and two other school administrators buried allegations against Sandusky out of a desire to "avoid the consequences of bad publicity."

Their inaction allowed the retired assistant coach to continue molesting boys, Freeh's report found.

On Saturday, artist Michael Pilato removed a halo he had added to Paterno's image on a large mural in State College after the coach died in January. He said he usually puts a halo over one of his subjects when they die, but felt after release of the report that it should be removed in Paterno's case.

"It's one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life, but I'm glad I did it," he told The Associated Press.

Instead, Pilato added a large blue ribbon on Paterno's lapel symbolizing support for child abuse victims—an idea he said Paterno endorsed before his death. Pilato earlier removed Sandusky from the mural. He said he hasn't made a decision on the image of Spanier but will make some kind of change.

"People are doing it for me pretty much—there's eggs being thrown at him, and different things like that," he said. "I was thinking about putting a blindfold on him or something."

Initially, Penn Staters were stunned by the allegations in the grand jury report, especially that it could happen at the place they loved and under the watch of Paterno. Students rioted over Paterno's firing, and then they held an emotional candlelight vigil in the days afterward to tell victims, and the world, that Penn State was sorry.

Unrelenting Obama jabs at Romney's job record

CLIFTON, Va. (AP)—An unrelenting President Barack Obama jabbed at Mitt Romney's record with a private equity firm in an ad Saturday that aimed to keep his rival on the defensive just as the Republican challenger's campaign hoped to take advantage of poor economic data to gain an edge on the incumbent.

Obama

Obama met Romney's plea for an apology for the attacks with a mocking ad that charged that the firm shipped American jobs to China and Mexico, that Romney has personal wealth in investments in Switzerland, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, and that as Massachusetts governor, he sent state jobs to India.

"Mitt Romney's not the solution. He's the problem," the ads says as Romney is heard singing "America the Beautiful."

Pressure was building on Romney from within his own party to be more forthcoming with his finances, a day after he declared he would not release past income tax returns beyond his 2010 tax records and, before the November election, his 2011 taxes

On the sidelines of the National Governors Association meeting in Williamsburg, Alabama's Republican governor, Robert Bentley, called on Romney to release all the documents requested of him.

"If you have things to hide, then maybe you're doing things wrong," Bentley said. "I think you ought to be willing to release everything to the American people."

After Democrats seized on his words, Bentley later said he still believes Romney's taxes should be released and he believes in transparency, but he's wasn't implying that Romney has anything to hide.

A soaked Obama, campaigning in a downpour in closely contested Virginia, hewed to his middle class-centered pitch in remarks in Glen Allen, which lies in the district represented by one of his top Republican nemeses, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. He attacked Romney and his Republican allies for pursuing what the president branded as outdated and discredited economic policies.

Obama didn't dwell on Romney's business record, leaving the sharpest attacks to his campaign and the new television commercial. Still he played up the charge that Romney and the private equity firm he founded in 1984, Bain Capital, sent jobs overseas.

"He invested in companies that have been called pioneers of outsourcing," the president said, his shirt drenched and water streaming down his face. "I don't want pioneers in outsourcing, I want some insourcing. I want to bring companies back."

ACROSS THE NATION

Weather stops tandem lawn chair balloon flight

BEND, Ore. (AP)—A gas station owner and an Iraqi adventurer trying to fly from Oregon to Montana in tandem lawn chairs suspended from party balloons made a hard landing Saturday after aborting their flight due to thunderstorms—but their craft kept flying. Kent Couch and Fareed Lafta were about seven hours into their flight when they descended, coming down near the community of Post, about 30 miles east of their starting point. But after they scrambled out of the contraption, it floated away, flight organizer Mark Knowles said. "They came down hard," Knowles said by cellphone. "The craft went back up. It's sitting up in the sky right above us." A flight website tracker showed it continuing east across Oregon. Knowles said the balloonists were pelted by hail and snow and buffeted by turbulence before reaching the ground but they were not injured. "Everybody is walking around," he said.

Family fears for Mass. pastor abducted in Egypt

BOSTON (AP)—The family of a Boston Pentecostal pastor abducted in Egypt on Saturday appealed to his captor to release the 61-year-old man, saying he is a diabetic and the family fears for his health. The son of Rev. Michel Louis told The Associated Press that his father was on a church trip to retrace Jesus' steps through the Holy Land with 23 other members of the clergy and worshippers when he was abducted. Along with him, a 39-year-old Boston woman in the group and a tour guide were kidnapped in broad daylight Friday. Jirmy Abu-Masuh, an Egyptian Bedouin, told the AP he was armed when he stopped the bus on a road linking Cairo to Mount Sinai, ordered the three to get off and took them captive. He said they would be released only after police release his uncle from prison, and he vowed to take more hostages of different nationalities if his demands were not met.

Asia

Suicide bomber kills 23 at Afghan wedding

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up among guests at a wedding hall Saturday in northern Afghanistan, killing 23 people including a prominent ex-Uzbek warlord turned lawmaker who was the father of the bride.

The attack was the latest to target top figures from the country's minority groups and dealt a blow to efforts to unify ethnic factions amid growing concerns that the country could descend into civil war after foreign combat troops withdraw in 2014.

Ahmad Khan Samangani, an ethnic Uzbek who commanded forces fighting the Soviets in the 1980s and later became a member of parliament, was welcoming guests to his daughter's wedding Saturday morning when the blast ripped through the building in Aybak, the capital of Samangan province.

Three Afghan security force officials also were among those killed. About 60 other people, including government officials, were wounded in the attack, which left the wedding hall's black-and-white tile floor covered with shattered glass, blood and other debris.

Chairs adorned with pink fabric lay strewn across the site. Dead bodies were piled into the back of Afghan security force vehicles. Afghan Army helicopters ferried some of the wounded from the wedding hall, which has a facade of pillars painted a festive light green and pink.

The bride and groom survived, but never got the chance to exchange vows.

An eyewitness described a gruesome scene after the explosion.

"I came out and saw 40 to 50 people everywhere on the ground - wounded and killed," said Salahuddin, who uses one name which is common in Afghanistan. "I could not exactly count the number of people killed. I could see people with missing legs and body parts all around me."

It was the latest in a string of deadly attacks around the country that threaten to undermine international hopes of an orderly handover to Afghan forces by the end of 2014. In one of the worst, Taliban fighters attacked a lakeside hotel north of Kabul on June 22, killing 18 people. Two days earlier, a suicide bomber killed 21 people, including three U.S. soldiers, in the eastern city of Khost.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Saturday's attack.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told the Associated Press in a phone call that the Taliban neither confirmed nor denied responsibility for the attack. In announcing their spring offensive on May 2, the Taliban said they would continue to target those who back the Karzai government and the U.S.-led international military coalition.

Jan Kubis, the United Nation's top official in Afghanistan, said the U.N. had documented an increase in the number of government and elected officials who have been targeted by militants in the past six months. He did not provide statistics, but two government officials were assassinated on Friday—the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs director in Laghman province and the mayor of Shindand district in Herat province.

"Such inhumane brutality that is against the teachings of Islam and against international law should stop immediately," Kubis said in a statement.

AP

Afghan men inspect a damaged wedding hall that was the site of a bombing in Samangan province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, July, 14, 2012.

ASIAN BRIEFS

GE signs Myanmar deals after US eases sanctions

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Just days after the U.S. eased key sanctions on Myanmar, General Electric became the first American company to invest in the former pariah state, signing deals Saturday to provide medical equipment to a pair of hospitals in the country's biggest city. Myanmar President Thein Sein held talks on Friday with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who declared the country open to American investment. The meeting in Cambodia was attended by some of the largest U.S. corporations. On Wednesday, President Barack Obama's administration officially gave the green light to American companies to invest in the country, also known as Burma. Western nations imposed economic and political sanctions on Myanmar's previous military regime in response to its repressive and undemocratic policies, and the easing of sanctions is a reward for a series of reforms by Thein Sein's new government over the past year.

Indian villagers hold frog wedding to bring rain

With five priests chanting scriptures, a frog groom named Punarvasu and his amphibian bride Pushala were joined in holy Hindu matrimony by villagers hoping the ancient custom will bring monsoon rains to their drought-stricken district. Organizer Nandkumar Pawar says thousands of people gathered Thursday in a massive tent in Patkhal village for the lavish wedding banquet. He said Saturday that the frogs were decorated with flowers and smeared with turmeric, a holy and auspicious ointment. A brass band played Bollywood film songs while the priests blessed the frogs. ***(AP)***

Pakistani police arrest man for burying baby alive

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani police arrested a man accused of burying his newborn daughter alive because she was physically deformed, officials said Saturday. The shocking incident illustrates the sometimes extreme prejudices in Pakistan against children, especially girls that are born with any type of physical deformities. They are often seen as shameful for the family, especially in the rural, poorer parts of the country where they are viewed as a drain on the family. Mohammed Anwar, a police officer in the city of Khanewal in the eastern Punjab province, said the child was born Thursday at a hospital in the nearby town of Kacha Khoh.

Stalled Chinese warship taken off disputed shoal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Chinese navy ships safely removed one of the country's warships Sunday from a disputed shoal off the western Philippines where it had run aground while on a security patrol and sparked fears of another maritime standoff in the South China Sea.

The warship will sail back to port with minor damage, and no crew member was injured, Chinese Embassy spokesman Zhang Hua said in a statement that suggested the vessel did not spill any oil.

The frigate got stuck Wednesday night on Half Moon Shoal, about 110 kilometers (70 miles) from the western Philippine province of Palawan, prompting China and the Philippines to send rescue ships there. Both countries were already locked in a tense dispute over another shoal off the northwestern Philippines.

The South China Sea is a flashpoint in diplomatic relations, with various Asian nations claiming whole or part of its islands and waters.

Philippine navy chief Vice Admiral Alexander Pama said at least six Chinese navy ships and vessels, along with smaller utility boats, helped refloat the stalled frigate. Filipino coast guard search and rescue vessels had been deployed near the scene to help if needed, he said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said Saturday the Philippines was investigating the circumstances that led to the accident. The Philippine government on Sunday expressed relief that the delicate incident was over.

"We are glad to note that Chinese authorities have successfully extricated their stranded frigate" and will now return to China from the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, Philippine foreign affairs department spokesman Raul Hernandez said, referring to his country's 370-kilometer (230-mile) stretch of territorial waters recognized under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Chinese frigate had apparently been sailing in Malaysian and Philippine waters before the accident, according to a Philippine military official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Brig. Gen. Elmer Amon, deputy chief of the Philippine military's Western Command, said Filipino vessels would continue to monitor the shoal amid the continuing presence of Chinese navy ships in the area.

84-year-old Thai king recovers from bleed on brain

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's 84-year-old king has recovered from minor bleeding around the brain, the royal palace said Friday, but still canceled a day trip to western Thailand. It would have been his fourth such recent excursion outside the hospital where he has stayed for more than two-and-a-half years.

The trips are seemingly meant to raise his profile after his extended absence from the public eye, especially as Thailand goes through a period of possible political turbulence.

The palace's statement said King Bhumibol Adulyadej had twitching in his right hand and a slightly increased pulse rate Thursday evening before a computer scan found bleeding in the brain's outer membrane. He was given medicine intravenously and recovered Friday morning, with a normal pulse rate and blood pressure and no more twitching.

Bhumibol

The palace said doctors urged the king not to take on any duties for a while.

Bhumibol has been staying at Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital since September 2009. Originally treated for lung inflammation, he had a spinal tap procedure last year to reduce excess cerebrospinal fluid causing pressure on his brain. He was treated for abdominal bleeding that caused a sharp drop in his blood pressure in November, and for a painful digestive condition in January.

The king had been scheduled to visit a development project Sunday in the western province of Ratchaburi. In May, he made a highly publicized trip to Thailand's old capital of Ayutthaya, wearing an army uniform for the occasion, and since then he has made two boat trips for ceremonial occasions.

Thailand's monarchy once had near-universal respect among Thais, but the king's fading from public life and the palace's perceived role in the nation's political battles have tarnished the institution in recent years.

The political troubles and the concurrent decline in Bhumibol's health have kindled uncertainty about the monarchy's future. Even though there is an heir apparent, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, there is uncertainty about his capacity to rule.

World

UN team investigates reported Syria massacre

BEIRUT (AP)—U.N. observers investigating a reported mass killing in a Syrian village on Saturday found pools of blood in homes and spent bullets, mortars and artillery shells, adding details to the emerging picture of what anti-regime activists have called one of the deadliest events of Syria's uprising.

Dozens of people have already been buried in a mass grave, and activists are still struggling to determine the total number of people killed in what they say was a violent bombardment by government tanks and helicopters this week.

Some of the emerging details suggested that, rather than the outright bombing of civilians that the opposition has depicted, the violence in Tremseh may have been a lopsided fight between the army pursuing the opposition and activists and locals trying to defend the village. Nearly all of the dead are men, including dozens of armed rebels. The U.N. observers said the assault appeared to target specific homes of army defectors or opposition figures.

Running tolls ranged from 103 to 152, including dozens of bodies buried in neighboring villages or burned beyond recognition. The activists expected the number to rise since hundreds of residents remain unaccounted for, and locals believe bodies remained in nearby fields or were thrown into the Orontes River.

AP

This image made from amateur video from Hama Revolution 2011 and accessed by AP video Friday, July 13, 2012 purports to show a funeral for victims killed by violence that, according to anti-regime activists, was carried out by government forces in Tremseh, Syria, about 15 kilometers (nine miles) northwest of the central city of Hama.

The Tremseh violence appeared to be one of the bloodiest events in the now 16-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad, in which activists say more than 17,000 people have been killed so far. The new deaths brought intensified international condemnation of his regime, and the Turkish prime minister added his voice to the chorus Saturday.

"These vicious massacres, these attempts at genocide, these inhuman savageries are nothing but the footsteps of a regime that is on its way out," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. "Sooner or later, these tyrants with blood on their hands will go and the people of Syria will in the end make them pay."

On Saturday, an 11-vehicle team of U.N. observers entered Tremseh, home to between 6,000-10,000 residents and one of a string of small farming villages along the Orontes River northwest of the city of Hama.

Based on its investigation, the team said in a statement that "an attack" took place on July 12. It said the violence seemed to target the homes of army defectors and activists, some of which were burned or damaged and had pooled or splattered blood and bullet casings inside.

The team also found evidence of artillery shells and mortars, which only government troops have, as well as assault rifles, the staple of Syria's rebels.

It did not give a casualty figure but said the team would return Sunday to continue investigating.

Independent verification of the events in nearly impossible in Syria, one of the Middle East's strictest police states, which bars most media from working in the country. The observers are in the country as part of an all but mordant peace plan by U.N. special envoy Kofi Annan, who has been trying for months to negotiate a solution to Syria's crisis.

The Britain-based opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 62 people were killed across Syria in new violence on Saturday, including at least 14 government soldiers.

So far, it remains unknown why the government launched a large offensive against Tremseh. The Syrian government said the killings were carried out by armed gangs and terrorists, its shorthand for the anti-regime opposition. It said 50 people were killed before the army intervened and that three soldiers were killed.

But the U.N. has already implicated Assad's forces in the assault. The head of the U.N. observer mission said Friday that monitors stationed near Tremseh saw the army using heavy weaponry and attack helicopters.

US role in post-Mubarak Egypt still unclear

CAIRO (AP)—Having pressed the new Egyptian president, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday will seek to mobilize what influence the United States still has with the army chief whose key role in post-Hosni Mubarak Egypt is splitting the country between those who see the military as a threat to democracy and those clinging to it as a guarantor of stability.

The United States sees it as a bit of both.

Clinton's demand to the military will be simple: Work with Egypt's new Islamist leaders on a full transition to civilian rule.

But with the U.S. having already approved yet another massive delivery of military aid, it is unclear what leverage the Obama administration has as it seeks to stabilize Egypt and build a new relationship with America's once ironclad Arab ally.

The meeting with Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi in Cairo comes with Egypt's transformation from dictatorship to democracy in peril.

Tantawi's council of generals is locked in a tense political standoff with the Muslim Brotherhood after curtailing the powers of its victorious President Mohamed Morsi on the eve of his inauguration last month and enforcing a court decision dissolving the Islamist-dominated parliament. Together the actions have created an atmosphere where no one is quite sure who is in control and where Egypt is headed.

Seventeen months after the street demonstrations that ousted Mubarak, the United States is left without a friend and with little influence among a host of old and new political actors who can't seem to chart a mutual path forward. Calling for compromise and consensus on Saturday after her first ever meeting with Morsi, Clinton staked out a middle ground in the dispute. Yet the immediate effect of her exhortations was nothing.

For the Obama administration, the old prism supporting Egypt's military leaders as bedrock allies shattered with Mubarak's demise. It wants to safeguard U.S. interests in the region, from counterterrorism cooperation to Arab-Israeli peace efforts, but its agenda remains on hold while the Arab world's most populous nation remains mired in turmoil. The lack of clarity over who is going to prevail from Egypt's political maneuvering is only adding to the paralysis.

Clinton, who earlier this year certified sufficient Egyptian action toward democracy for $1.3 billion in U.S. military aid to go through, will likely carry the same message to Tantawi as Morsi. Without taking a position in disputes over parliament or how to draft a new constitution, Clinton will urge the longtime military chief to return the armed forces to a "purely national security role," as she termed it Saturday.

Most-wanted US fugitive caught in Cancun, Mexico

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—Mexican police arrested one of the U.S. Marshals Service's most-wanted fugitives in the resort city of Cancun, after 24 years on the run.

Suspect Vincent Legrend Walters is wanted in San Diego, California, on murder charges in the 1988 killing of a woman kidnapped as part of a drug deal. He also faces weapons and drug charges and is on the service's list of 15 most wanted fugitives.

The Marshals Service said Walters had been living in Cancun under the assumed name of Oscar Rivera and was working at the Cancun international airport. The service said he was arrested Friday and had been taken to Mexico City to await extradition procedures.

An official at Cancun's airport who was not authorized to be quoted by name said Walters was not an airport employee but rather had worked for a resort selling timeshare vacation packages by staffing an information booth at the terminal for about a decade. Outside staffers at such booths are usually not subject to the same security reviews as airport employees.

Walters

The hotel complex for which Walters worked is in Puerto Morelos, just south of Cancun, the airport official said.

While Walters was using an assumed name, the Marshals Service said he "had boasted to people that he was a fugitive from San Diego and wanted by the U.S. Marshals Service."

Walters allegedly bought chemicals to make methamphetamines from undercover Drug Enforcement Administration agents in 1988. An associate handed over the finished meth to a local dealer to hold. The dealer passed them on to yet another man.

When Walters wanted the drugs back, he kidnapped the dealer who had been holding the meth, his friend and the friend's girlfriend, offering the hostages in exchange for the return of the drugs. Two of the hostages were released.

However, the third kidnap victims, the girlfriend, died because she had been gagged with a chemical-soaked rag. Walter's brother Martin was convicted in the kidnapping and murder and is serving 25 years to life in prison.

WORLD BRIEFS

Islamists in Mali detain, whip 90 protesters

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Radical Islamists in northern Mali have briefly detained about 90 protesters and whipped them in an apparent attempt to intimidate the locals, a witness said Saturday. Resident Hama Cisse of Goundam town, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Timbuktu, said members of the radical Islamic sect Ansar Dine went from door to door in the morning to arrest the leaders of a protest against them. The protest erupted Friday after a young Islamist militant whipped a woman carrying a baby for not wearing what he considered to be an adequate veil, he said. The baby fell and was critically injured, according to Cisse and other residents.

Soyuz rocket launches on mission to space station

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP)—A Russian Soyuz craft launched into the morning skies over Kazakhstan on Sunday, carrying three astronauts on their way to the International Space Station, where they will quickly start preparing for a frenzy of incoming traffic. NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, Russian cosmonaut Yury Malenchenko and Japan's Akihito Hoshide are set to travel two days before reaching their three colleagues already at the permanent space outpost. Families and colleagues watched the launch from an observation platform in the Russian-leased cosmodrome in the dry southern steppes of this sprawling Central Asian nation.

British newspaper demands it simply stop raining

LONDON (AP)—Just. Stop. Raining. That was the unusual plea published in an editorial in The Times of London on Saturday, a measure of Britons' growing frustration with months of miserable weather. "Let us make our position crystal clear: We are against this weather," the venerable newspaper wrote in an unsigned opinion piece. "It must stop raining, and soon." The U.K. is slogging through some of the wettest conditions in recent history. Nearly every day seems to bring showers, sprinkles, drizzles, or downpours. On Saturday alone, England's Environment Agency registered some 75 flood alerts and warnings across the country, including the west England county of Shropshire, where fire and rescue officials received an anguished phone call from a woman who found herself waist-deep in water overnight.

Focus

As Europe struggles, young job-seekers suffer most

AP

In this Wednesday May 18, 2011, file photo, students take part in a demonstration in Madrid.

BRUSSELS (AP)—Irene Fernandez lost her job with Spain's postal service five months ago, a victim of government spending cuts. Since then, she's been getting by on spending money from her mother and the $530 a month she earns grooming dogs for neighbors. Fernandez, 24, has had one job interview.

"This year has been the toughest," she says. "I am beginning to realize that things are going to be a lot tougher for me than for my mother's generation."

Europe's economic crisis is hitting young people like Fernandez the hardest. The youth unemployment rate is nearly 53 percent in Greece, 51.5 percent in Spain and 35 percent in Italy. In the 17 countries that use the euro currency, youth unemployment is a record 22 percent, twice the eurozone's overall unemployment rate of 11 percent, which is itself the highest since the euro was created in 1999.

The striking exception is Germany, where youth unemployment is only 7.9 percent, thanks to a vocational education system. (European economic statistics count those 15 through 24 as youths.) In the United States, youth unemployment—which covers ages 16 through 24—was 16.5 percent last month.

Economists fear that years of unemployment could produce a European version of Japan's "Lost Generation"—the young adults who looked in vain for jobs in the 1990s and today find themselves permanently locked out of good careers. The longer young adults stay unemployed, the longer they contribute nothing to economic growth, consume government aid and increase the risk of social unrest.

Youth unemployment is almost always about twice as high as overall unemployment in Europe. Young workers are often the last hired, so they are the first to be fired. And they find it tough to break into occupations—notaries in Italy and taxi drivers in Greece, for example—where established, older workers are protected from competition by laws and regulations.

But Europe's economic malaise, which began with the financial crisis in 2008 and continues as governments grapple with excessive debt, has made things far worse. Countries have adopted austerity programs and cut government employees. Companies have announced layoffs or frozen hiring to deal with falling demand.

A collapse of housing markets has also wiped out construction jobs, many of which were held by young workers. And older workers whose finances were ravaged by the recession and financial crisis are retiring later.

As a result, successive waves of young people have graduated from high school or college with little chance of finding a job, pushing the youth unemployment rate higher each year.

The outlook is for little improvement. More than half the eurozone countries are in recession, and the overall economy will shrink by 0.3 percent this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Leaders of the 27 European Union countries agreed late last month on a bold plan to pump cash into Europe's troubled banks and help governments deal with their excessive debt and high borrowing costs. But the plan is likely to provide little immediate relief to Europe's youth. What they need is economic growth that produces jobs.

"That's the real urgency," says John Springford, research fellow at the Centre for European Reform.

The desperation is especially high in Europe's most troubled economies—Spain, Italy and Greece, among others—and is affecting even the well-educated.

Jacinthe Adande, 28, holds a degree in literature and languages from Paris' elite Sorbonne. Unemployed for four years, she's been unable to land a job even as a house cleaner. "They ask for your work experience," she says. She doesn't have much.

Andrea Beluffi, 19, wanted to go to work after he finished high school in Cremona, a northern Italian city famous for producing Stradivarius violins. But he took a hard look at the job market and decided to enroll in college instead.

"Let's be clear here, I am glad to go to university," he says. "However, it is the crisis that forced my decision ... I wanted to work but, at this time, whether one likes it or not, you have to study. What would I have done otherwise?"

Other European youths, unable to find jobs, also have sought sanctuary on college campuses. That is one reason the percentage of European youths who are part of the labor force—working or looking for work—dropped to 48.7 percent last year from 52.9 percent in 2000.

British researchers Paul Gregg and Emma Tominey found in a 2005 study that British men who were unemployed for at least a year sometime from age 16 through age 23 were still suffering from a "wage penalty" at age 42: They earned 13 percent to 21 percent less than they would have if they hadn't been unemployed.

Like the United States, most European countries provide unemployment benefits only to people who have worked for a minimum period, says Gary Burtless, senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution.

"These young people are more dependent on their relatives to support them in their distress," he says.

The damage is already widespread across Europe:

ITALY

Alice Scazzoli, 23, graduated in June with a degree in languages from Bologna's state university. She's living with her parents and earns about $600 a month juggling three jobs—waiting restaurant tables, selling shoes and fabric at an open-air market and teaching English.

Fluent in Japanese, she's given up hope of earning a decent living in Italy and wants to save enough to move to Tokyo and look for work there. "Let's put it this way: The (job) possibilities were already scarce, and the crisis has eliminated even a lot of those," Scazzoli says.

Italy's unemployment rate of 10.2 percent is its highest since May 2000; for young adults, the rate is 35.2 percent.

FRANCE

Adande has been unemployed or working odd jobs since graduating from the Sorbonne four years ago.

She dreams of starting a theater troupe. But "I don't see many opportunities in France," she says. The obstacles involved in starting a business are "very complicated ... especially if you don't have capital and don't have experience."

Adande is considering looking for work in Britain, Canada or Cameroon, where she has family. She figures she could return to France once she's acquired some experience. For now, she has moved back in with her mother in a Paris suburb.

"It makes me feel like I have failed in something," Adande says.

The unemployment rate in France is 10.2 percent; for young people, it's 22 percent. Both are the highest since 1999.

SPAIN

For Fernandez, money is so tight she seldom uses her cell phone. She hopes to land a job selling magazines and newspapers. But if things don't improve by fall, Fernandez says she'll move in with her mother.

Another possibility: "I have some good friends who will always open their door for me. We are beginning to function like that now, through networks."

She sees young couples breaking up under the strain of a weak economy:

"When people that live together are forced to be together all the time with no money with which to do anything and with few entertainment options available, you can see relationships snapping and falling apart."

Spain's 24.3 percent unemployment rate is its highest on records dating to 1983. Youth unemployment is 51.5 percent.

BRITAIN

Genevieve Walsh, 22, began receiving unemployment checks after graduating from college this year with a degree in politics and international relations—and $56,000 in debt.

"I was told to go to university because I'd get a good job and loads of money, whereas I've gone to university but haven't gotten a job and I owe loads of money," Walsh says. "Maybe I should have just left school at 16 and gotten an apprenticeship."

She's been applying for several jobs a week—retail, secretarial, sales, event planning, waitressing. But she feels caught in a vicious cycle: "You have to have experience to have a job. But no one is giving you experience so you can get a job."

Government job counselors have urged her to "dumb down" her resume, deemphasizing her university studies, to help land an entry-level job.

Unemployment is 8.1 percent; for young adults, it's 21.7 percent.

GERMANY

Germany's unemployment rate is just 5.4 percent. The youth rate is 7.9 percent—lowest in Europe.

The path from school to work is easier in Germany. For young people who don't go on to college, apprenticeships combine work experience and classroom training for two or three years after high school. The system is supported by government, companies and unions.

Sandra Buchta is completing her one-year apprenticeship at a moving company in Frankfurt. She works 3 1/2 days a week and takes two mornings of instruction in areas like bookkeeping and software at a vocational school. Buchta receives a $675 monthly stipend that lets her get by while living at home. And she's likely—but not guaranteed—to get a full-time job offer from the company.

Typical for an apprentice, she's learning all aspects of the company's operations, from dispatching to bookkeeping. The training provides skills she could use anywhere in the moving industry.

That broad training is a key difference between mere on-the-job training for a single post and an apprenticeship, says Brigitte Scheuerle, who oversees training programs and the exams at Frankfurt's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"A worker standing on the assembly line does not just install one part," Scheuerle says. "He knows what is going on to the left and right of him."

Yet it's not clear how well Germany's model, which dates back to the Middle Ages, would transfer to other countries. It's based on extensive cooperation among government, companies and unions.

It's "an attitude of solidarity, and solidarity can't be imposed by fiat," Scheuerle says.

For now, struggles persist elsewhere in Europe. Gloria Carracedo, 24, hasn't been able to land a full-time teaching job in Spain. She plans to leave for Malta to learn English. Living there is cheaper than London.

Still, she keeps her hopes in check. "The way things are right now," she says, "I don't foresee being able to reach my parents' standard of living."

Health & Fitness

FDA approves first rapid, take-home HIV test

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans will soon be able to test themselves in the privacy of their own homes for the virus that causes AIDS, now that the Food and Drug Administration has approved the first rapid, over-the-counter HIV test.

The OraQuick test detects the presence of HIV antibodies using a mouth swab and returns a result in 20 to 40 minutes.

Government officials estimate that about 240,000 people, or one-fifth of the roughly 1.2 million people carrying HIV in the U.S., don't know they are infected. Testing is a chief means of slowing new infections, which have held steady at about 50,000 per year for two decades.

FDA officials said the test is designed for people who might not otherwise get tested.

"The availability of a home-use HIV test kit provides another option for individuals to get tested so that they can seek medical care, if appropriate," said Dr. Karen Midthun, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Orasure plans to start selling the test in October, both online and through retailers like Walgreens, CVS and Walmart. It hasn't set a price yet but expects the consumer version to cost less than $60 but more than the one marketed to health professionals, which costs about $17.50. CEO Doug Michels said the price increase will help pay for a toll-free call center to provide counseling and medical referrals to test users.

"Each of the call-center operators is bilingual in English and Spanish, they've gone through 160 hours of training on HIV counseling and testing," Michels said in an interview with the Associated Press. "So they are highly trained professionals and they'll be there to support the consumer."

AP

This undated handout photo provided by Orasure shows the OraQuick test, which detects the presence of HIV in saliva collected using a mouth swab. The test is designed to return a result within 20 to 40 minutes.

Michels said the company's marketing efforts will focus on populations at greatest risk of being infected with HIV, including gay and bisexual men, African Americans and Hispanics.

FDA stressed in its approval announcement that the test is not 100 percent accurate in identifying people with the virus. A trial conducted by test maker Orasure showed OraQuick detected HIV in those carrying the virus only 92 percent of the time, though it was 99.9 percent accurate in ruling out HIV in patients not carrying the virus.

That means the test could miss one in 12 HIV-infected people who use it but would incorrectly identify only one patient as having HIV for every 5,000 HIV-negative people tested, the FDA said.

People who test negative should get re-tested after three months, because it can take several weeks for detectable antibodies to HIV to appear, according to Dr. Jonathan Mermin, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV unit.

The FDA has approved several other HIV test kits designed for home use, but they usually require a blood sample that must be sent to a laboratory for development.

HIV awareness groups hailed the approval as an important step in expanding testing for the virus.

"This test will allow anyone to empower themselves to know their HIV status when, how and with whom they want to," said Tom Donohue, founding director of Who's Positive.

Experts say it's difficult to predict how widely the test will be used.

According to the Orasure's study, 41 percent of people who discovered they were HIV-positive using OraQuick had never been tested. The company estimates that 9,000 new HIV carriers would be identified for every 1 million people who use the test.

Based in Bethlehem, Pa., Orasure has marketed a version of OraQuick to doctors, nurses and other health care practitioners since 2002. When used by professionals, the test is shown to accurately identify both carriers and non-carriers 99 percent of the time. It's not clear why the test is less accurate in consumer trials, but researchers said they expected its sensitivity to drop when it was used by consumers.

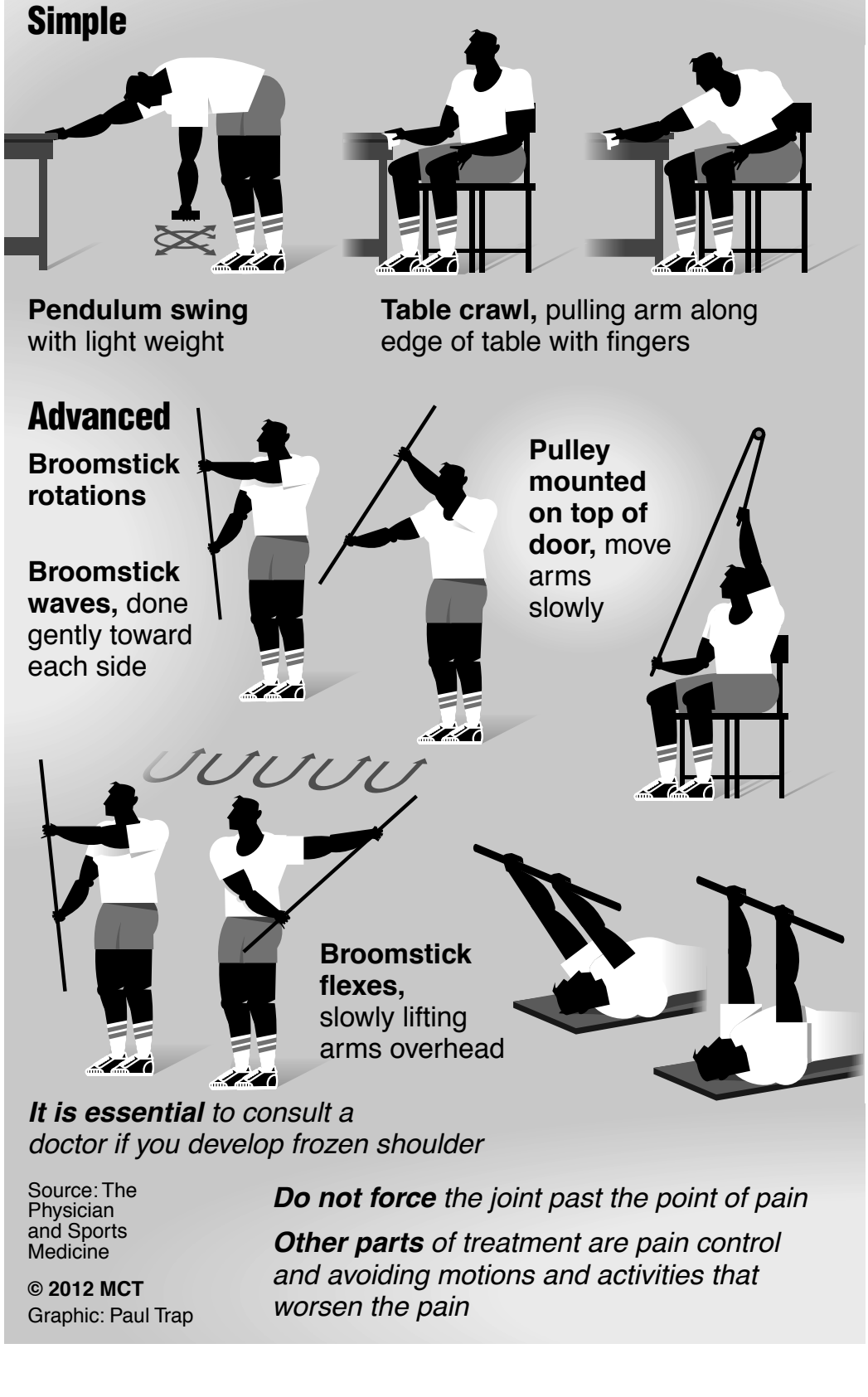
HIV eventually develops into AIDS, unless treated with antiviral drugs. AIDS causes the body's immune system to breakdown, leading to infections which become fatal.

Shares of Orasure Technologies rose 60 cents, or 5.2 percent, to close at $12.10 on Tuesday.

Personal Trainer

Loosening a 'frozen shoulder'

"Frozen shoulder" occurs after an injury when scar tissue and adhesions cause pain and loss of movement; recovery often requires months of gentle, regular exercise.


Simple
Pendulum swing with light weight
Table crawl, pulling arm along edge of table with fingers
Advanced
Broomstick rotations
Broomstick waves, done gently toward each side
Pulley mounted on top of door, move arms slowly
Broomstick flexes, slowly lifting arms overhead
It is essential to consult a doctor if you develop frozen shoulder
Do not force the joint past the point of pain
Other parts of treatment are pain control and avoiding motions and activities that worsen the pain

Source: The Physician and Sports Medicine

© 2012 MCT

Graphic: Paul Trap

Potent form of common child illness deadly in Asia

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Tran Minh Giang has spent more than a third of his young life in a Vietnamese hospital, and it could be many months more before he can go home. All for a disease that in Asia is as common as chicken pox, and usually about as severe.

The 20-month-old boy was sickened by a particularly menacing form of hand, foot and mouth disease that has killed hundreds of young children across the region. They sometimes suffer high fever, brain swelling, paralysis and respiratory shutdown, even though they may have been infected by people with few or no symptoms.

When the strain hit Cambodia recently, doctors there had no idea what it was, and even now experts don't fully understand why it can be so devastating. Seven months after becoming sick, Giang still breathes using a ventilator connected to a hole in his tiny throat.

"It may take time, maybe years, before he can recover. When he sleeps, his lungs don't work," his father, Tran Nam Trung, said Thursday while fanning the toddler. "When he first got a high fever, I didn't think that he would be in a situation like this."

The enterovirus 71 strain, or EV-71, raised fears earlier this week when it was detected in some lab samples taken after 52 of 59 Cambodian children died suddenly from a mystery illness that sparked international alarm. The World Health Organization said via Twitter on Thursday that its investigation has found most cases were caused by the disease.

An expert at the U.N. health agency earlier said it's the first time EV-71 had been identified in the country, but it's a well-known pathogen elsewhere in Asia. In the first half of this year alone, 356 people in China and 33 in Vietnam have died from it.

The scale of the disease was clear last week on the crowded ground floor of a hospital in China's hard-hit central Hunan province. Dozens of crying children were packed into two small rooms, sitting or lying on chairs with IV drips hooked to them. Hunan reported 33 hand, foot and mouth disease deaths in May, a quarter of the country's total that month.

The disease has exploded across the region since 1997, when the first major outbreak was reported in Malaysia. Since then, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Mongolia, Taiwan and Australia have all wrangled with it.

Life & Style

Who will replace Lopez, Tyler on 'American Idol'?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mariah Carey, Celine Dion and Mary J. Blige are among the heady names being tossed around as potential judges for "American Idol" after Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez skipped out on next season.

Star power, after all, is what judges add to TV talent shows that otherwise feature unknowns whose performances can range from surprisingly good to stunningly awful.

But Fox's "American Idol," trying to right itself after shedding viewers in its 11th season, may also need to play a numbers game—as in the age of the judges brought in to revitalize a show whose audience is getting smaller and older, neither a plus for advertisers.

"They need judges who will resonate with young people," said media analyst Brad Adgate.

Carey, Dion and Blige, undeniably winning stars, all are in their early 40s.

The median age for the "American Idol" audience rose above 50 last season, the first time ever, and Adgate suggests it take a page from "The X Factor" playbook, as devised by its creator and producer, Simon Cowell.

AP

In this May 25, 2012 file photo, singer Mariah Carey poses before a press conference, during the Mawazine Festival in Rabat, Morocco.

"Cowell beat them to the punch" by hiring Britney Spears and Demi Lovato after "X Factor," the Fox version of Cowell's British hit, stumbled in its debut last season. Spears, 30, and Lovato, 19, replaced Paula Abdul, 50, and Nicole Scherzinger, 34.

(Worth noting: The male judges, Cowell, 52, and producer Antonio "L.A." Reid, 56, are staying put for season two.)

Lopez announced her departure on Friday, a day after Tyler (an unlikely senior statesman at 64) said he was leaving "American Idol" to concentrate on his role as Aerosmith's frontman. Both appeared for two seasons.

"I honestly feel like the time has come that I have to get back to doing the other things that I do that I've put kind of on hold because I love `Idol' so much," the 42-year-old actress-singer-dancer told "Idol" host Ryan Seacrest on his radio show.

Fox may be scouting for an entirely new panel, with some reports suggesting that original "Idol" judge Randy Jackson, 56, could shift to another role while Carey, whom he manages, becomes a judge. Jackson's and Carey's publicists did not respond to requests for comment.

The makeover comes at a critical time. In May, "American Idol" posted its lowest-rated finale ever after a season that marked its poorest showing yet among young adult viewers age 18 to 49. A pattern of overall declining viewership continued for the show, which fell from the No. 1 spot for the first time since the 2005-06 season, placing second to NBC's "Sunday Night Football."

"Idol" needs to stem its audience losses and level out, Adgate said, which would be enough to keep it a Top 10 program and a "force to be reckoned with."

Among the younger possibilities who might help, 19-year-old Miley Cyrus fits the Lovato mold. Speculation also has focused on former "Idol" winner Carrie Underwood, 29, and finalists Jennifer Hudson and Adam Lambert, both 30.

Lambert addressed the possibility this week in an interview in London, where he appeared in concert with Queen.

"Well, nothing's been confirmed yet. If I were to be asked, I'd love the job. I think that would be great. That's `if,' because nothing's been asked yet," he said, adding that he'd enjoy being a panelist who could "help other artists reach their dreams."

Nigel Lythgoe, an "Idol" executive producer who recently joked about hiring Jerry Lewis and Charlie Sheen as judges, was circumspect about Lambert.

"The minute `American Idol' is discussed and judges are discussed there's gonna be a lot of names flying around, and this is an interesting one," he said. "I happen to like Adam Lambert a great deal but I'm not sure where this has come from probably from Adam Lambert's fan club. We'll wait and see."

Youth isn't all, of course. Other factors at play involve the fan base that judges bring or develop, their skill on live TV and their chemistry with fellow panelists.

Casting a talent show judge, while less daunting than making a Supreme Court pick, can be tricky. The right person has enough celebrity cachet and success to be desirable, but not so much to be unattainable. It's unlikely that Rihanna, at least for now, sees a judgeship as a career ambition.

Cause elusive in death of Stallone son in LA home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There were no signs of foul play or trauma in the death of Sage Stallone, whose sudden passing at the age of 36 left his father Sylvester Stallone devastated, a publicist and investigators said.

Sage Stallone was found unresponsive in his Los Angeles home Friday by an employee and a relative, and police arrived and confirmed Sage Stallone was dead, Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said.

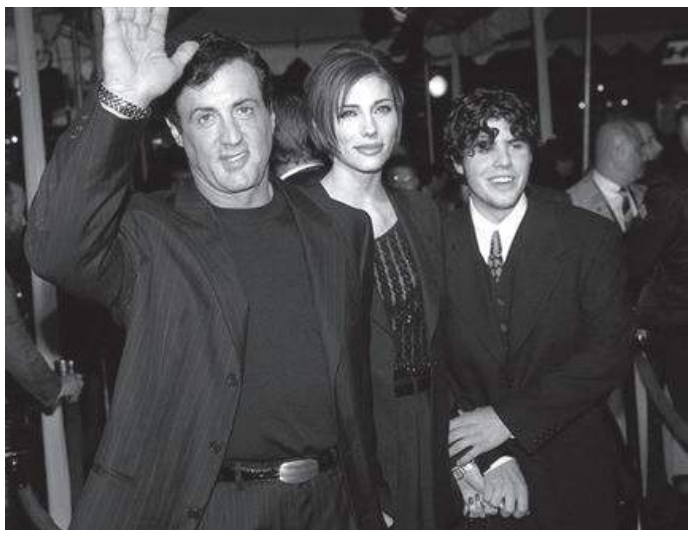
"Sylvester Stallone is devastated and grief-stricken over the sudden loss of his son," publicist Michelle Bega said in a statement. "His compassion and thoughts are with Sage's mother, Sasha."

The cause of death was not clear.

No suicide note was found, Winter said, though prescription bottles were recovered from the home on Mulholland Drive in the Studio City area. Winter could not say what kind of medication bottles or how many, and whether they had a role in the death.

Winter said an autopsy will be performed in the next few days and investigators will look into Stallone's medical history, but a cause of death was likely to take several weeks while toxicology tests are performed.

George Braunstein, an attorney who has represented Sage Stallone for 15 years, said friends and acquaintances had become concerned because they hadn't heard from Stallone in the past day, Braunstein said. He said the employee who found the body was a housekeeper.



AP

In this Dec. 5, 1996 file photo, Sylvester Stallone, left, star of the film "Daylight," arrives at the film's world premiere with his girlfriend Jennifer Flavin, center, and his son Sage Stallone, who co-stars in the film, in Hollywood district of Los Angeles.

Sylvester Stallone appeared Thursday at Comic-Con, the San Diego pop culture festival, to promote his upcoming film "Expendables 2" with friend and co-star Arnold Schwarzenegger. It was not clear whether he had remained at the convention or had returned to Los Angeles Friday.

Sage Moonblood Stallone was the oldest of Sylvester Stallone's children and co-starred with his father in two films. He was the first of two sons Stallone had with first wife Sasha Czack.

"Sage was a very talented and wonderful young man, his loss will be felt forever," Bega said.

Sage Stallone made his acting debut in 1990's "Rocky V" and also appeared with his father in 1996's "Daylight."

Also in 1996, Sage Stallone and veteran film editor Bob Murawski co-founded Grindhouse Releasing, a company dedicated to preserving and promoting the B-movies and exploitation films of the 1970s and 80s.

"He was very respectful of all the actors in all the movies," Braunstein said. "You couldn't mention a movie that he didn't know everything about."

Sage Stallone also directed the 2006 short "Vic," which screened at the Palm Springs Film Festival.

Braunstein said Stallone was planning on getting married for the first time, and had frequent requests to work on films.

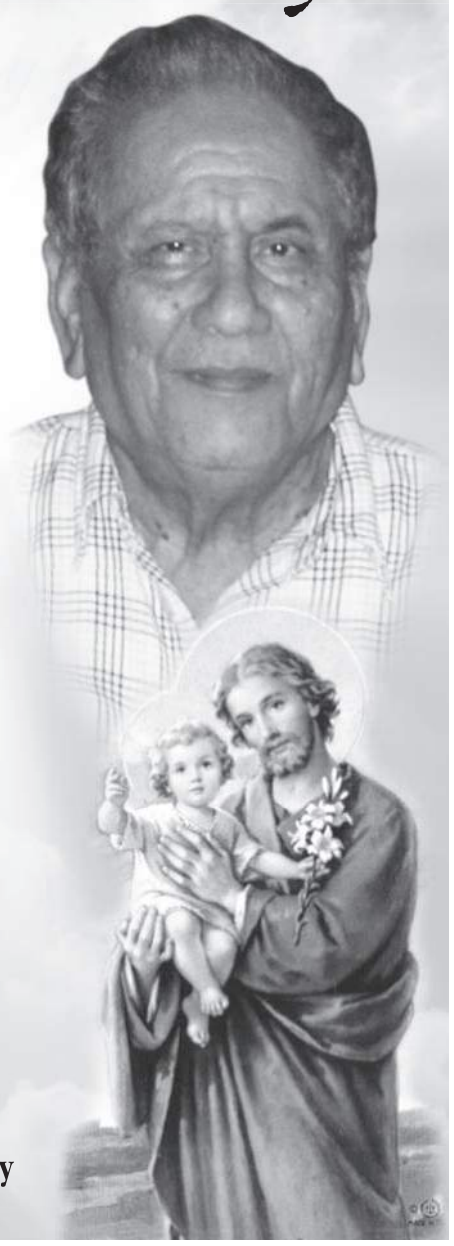
"He was a full of life filmmaker with his whole future ahead of him," Braunstein said. "He was just very up and enthusiastic and positive.

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

Jose Deleon Guerrero Diaz

"Badu"



We, the family of the late Jose Deleon Guerrero Diaz humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved Jose to his eternal life.

Daily Masses of intention will be offered at 6:00 am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning Sunday, July 15, through the ninth and final day of mass on Monday, July 23, 2012.

On Monday, July 23, 2012, breakfast will be served immediately after mass at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated

Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Dolores M. Diaz, Children and Family

Comic-Con crowd goes crazy for 'Hobbit' footage

SAN DIEGO (AP)—If reaction to "The Hobbit" footage at Comic-Con is any indication, Peter Jackson has another couple of blockbusters on his hands.

The crowd attending Jackson's "Hobbit" preview at the fan convention Saturday went wild over a 12-minute reel the filmmaker and his colleagues screened.

Broken into two films, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" and "The Hobbit: There and Back Again," the 3-D epic is Jackson's prequel to his "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, whose finale won 11 Academy Awards, including best picture and director.

"An Unexpected Journey" arrives in theaters Dec. 14, with "There and Back Again" following in December 2013.

The films are based on J.R.R. Tolkien's prequel novel, chronicling how tiny hobbit Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) acquired the ring of power that causes all the ruckus in "The Lord of the Rings," Jackson's three-part adaptation of Tolkien's fantasy saga.

Along with Jackson and Freeman, "The Hobbit" panel at Comic-Con featured "Lord of the Rings" co-stars Ian McKellen, who reprises his role as the wizard Gandalf, and Andy Serkis, who is back as twisted ring-keeper Gollum. Also on hand was Richard Armitage, who plays the dwarf Thorin Oakenshield.

Jackson showed 12 minutes of footage that included a chillingly comic exchange between Bilbo and Gollum; a tender moment between McKellen's Gandalf and Cate Blanchett, reprising her role as elf queen Galadriel; and the pivotal moment when Bilbo discovers the ring.

A surprise guest was Elijah Wood, who starred as hobbit Frodo Baggins in "The Lord of the Rings."

Freeman said he never felt intimidated as a newcomer to Jackson's team.

"Obviously, you can't really take intimidation or pressure to work with you, because you won't do your best work," Freeman said. "And you won't do your best playing, which is an actor's job."

AP

Peter Jackson, Martin Freeman, Philippa Boyens, Sir Ian McKellen, Andy Serkis, Richard Armitage and Elijah Wood speak at the "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" panel 2012 Comic Con on Saturday, July 14, 2012 in San Diego, Calif.

'Man of Steel' flies into Comic-Con with footage

AP

Henry Cavill speaks at "Man of Steel" panel 2012 Comic Con on Saturday, July 14, 2012 in San Diego, Calif.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—There are lots of people dressed like Superman at Comic-Con, but the real guy—or at least the actor playing him in the latest Superman film—made a surprise appearance at the fan festival.

"Man of Steel" director Zack Snyder presented new footage from the film on Saturday and introduced star Henry Cavill to an audience of more than 6,000 fans.

The British actor said "it's a dream come true" to play the iconic superhero, but confessed "it is pretty intense."

The footage showed Clark Kent as a boy and Cavill in his super suit, along with glimpses of co-stars Amy Adams and Russell Crowe.

Snyder said the film will make Superman more relatable than previous depictions that showed him as "a big blue Boy Scout up on the throne and you can't really touch him."

"The big challenge, of course, is if you can make people feel, `What would you do it you were Superman? How would you feel?'" Snyder said. "How to make it personal, I think that's the thing we went after."

Marvel announces its upcoming slate at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Robert Downey Jr. made a Tony Stark-like entrance Saturday into the San Diego Convention Center's largest exhibition hall, dancing up through the aisles among more than 6,000 fans.

The "Iron Man" star joined Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige at Comic-Con to show footage from the film, due next summer, and announce the studio's upcoming superhero film slate. He appeared while wearing the right hand of his "Iron Man" costume with a suit and tie.

The "Iron Man 3" clip showed Stark's latest incarnation of his super suit, pieces of which fly across his workshop and attach themselves to his body. It showed his cliffside compound crumbling into the sea and his cache of Iron Man suits being blasted to bits.

The footage also offered a look at Sir Ben Kingsley as the villain Mandarin and franchise newcomers Guy Pearce and Rebecca Hall, along with the return of Gwyneth Paltrow's Pepper Potts, Don Cheadle's James Rhodes and Jon Favreau's Happy Hogan.

Favreau, who directed the first two "Iron Man" films, served as an executive producer on the third installment.

"I feel like a proud grandfather who doesn't have to change the diapers but gets to play with the baby," Favreau said, appearing on the Marvel panel with Cheadle and "Iron Man 3" director Shane Black.

Black said the film explores the roots of Stark's mythology and feels like a culmination to the trilogy.

As to whether there could be more "Iron Man" movies after this one, Downey said: "The future is uncertain."

"I'm super happy and this has been just an amazing journey," he said.

Feige also announced other upcoming Marvel movies, including "Thor: The Dark World," "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," the anticipated "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Ant Man."

Director Edgar Wright made a surprise appearance at the panel and showed his test shots for the big-screen adaptation.

"I can reveal that Ant Man has been here the whole day," Wright said of the diminutive superhero. "In fact, he was here to spy on the `Pacific Rim' panel," where Guillermo del Toro gave a look at his giant-robot-versus-massive-monsters flick earlier Saturday.

Captain Hook sailing to 'Once Upon a Time'

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Captain Hook will make a splash on "Once Upon a Time."

The revelation that Peter Pan's adversary is sailing to Storybrooke was teased in a video at the conclusion of the ABC fairytale drama's Saturday morning Comic-Con presentation. The footage featured a shadowy gloved character breaking into Mr. Gold's Pawnshop, strutting past a tall ship model, smashing a display case and affixing a hook to his hand.

At the conclusion of the show's first season, the spell over the town of Storybrooke was seemingly broken and the characters were engulfed in a purple cloud.

"I never could have conceived of the brilliance that is the first couple of scripts," said Ginnifer Goodwin, who plays Snow White, of the second season. "But I can say that as an audience member, it's exactly what I would want to see."

"Once Upon a Time" actors Goodwin, Jennifer Morrison, Josh Dallas, Lana Parrilla, Meghan Ory and Emilie de Ravin were joined by show creators Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz on the panel. The cast said they will begin filming the next season Monday.

Kitsis and Horowitz promised fans that the identity of Henry's father would be revealed in the new season.

"I think people will be very excited to see that storyline play out for sure," said Morrison, who plays Emma Swan, the daughter of Snow White and Prince Charming, and the biological mother of Henry.

Before the presentation, the show's signature title cards, which feature characters depicted in the show, from the first season were shown, along with three from the upcoming second season, which referenced "Mulan," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Couple who want kids wonder if they can live without them

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Shortly after my wife and I were married, my wife got pregnant. Due to complications with the pregnancy, the baby had to be delivered early through a C-section. Our baby didn't make it. That was four years ago.

After unsuccessfully trying to conceive for almost a year now, my wife decided she wanted to find out why. We learned that there is a problem that was most likely caused by the C-section. Although we are still trying to see what can be done, there is a good chance that things won't be as easy as we expected regarding a pregnancy.

I'm personally in no hurry, but my wife is suffering a great deal as a result of this. I'm trying to ease things for her, telling her that this is not her fault and that we're in this together, and trying to reassure her that she is more important to me than kids.

However, she keeps saying that I'm just saying it, and with time I will change my mind and start to think about having kids. She says this is a basic instinct and it will eventually show up. My question is: Is life without kids unbearable to an extent that we might reach a point we won't be able to continue together?

CONFUSED HUSBAND IN JORDAN

DEAR CONFUSED HUSBAND: There are many happily childless couples. But before you and your wife reconcile to being one of them, consult an ob/gyn who specializes in infertility. Thanks to advances in medical science, there is more than one way to become parents. If your wife isn't able to carry a pregnancy to term because of her surgery, you may be able to hire a surrogate to do it. The baby would result from your sperm and your wife's egg and be your biological child.

It's possible that your wife is depressed and could benefit from talking with a mental health professional. I hope you both will start doing some research to find out what options are available to you—including adoption—if you wish to become parents.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a happily married English lady who came to the United States in 1985. I have a good career working for the same company for more than 20 years. My husband and I have no children. We enjoy travel and twice a year visit my aging parents in England.

My problem is that my guilt for not being there for my parents is growing stronger by the day. I'm an only child and feel that although they are both in relatively good health, they really need me. To move there would be financially impossible for us. Every year for the past 10 years we have spent a total of four weeks with them in England. I call them every three days on the phone, and yet the guilt continues to build.

Is what I'm doing acceptable, or am I a bad daughter for choosing to live my life so far away from them? They know that if anything happened and they needed me, I'd be on the next plane to be with them.

CONFLICTED IN FLORIDA

DEAR CONFLICTED: You are not a "bad daughter." You are a caring daughter who has made a success of her life, and who, because she loves her parents, is making herself crazy over choices she made years ago that she can't change. You are doing more for your parents than many people do, so stop flogging yourself. Please!

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

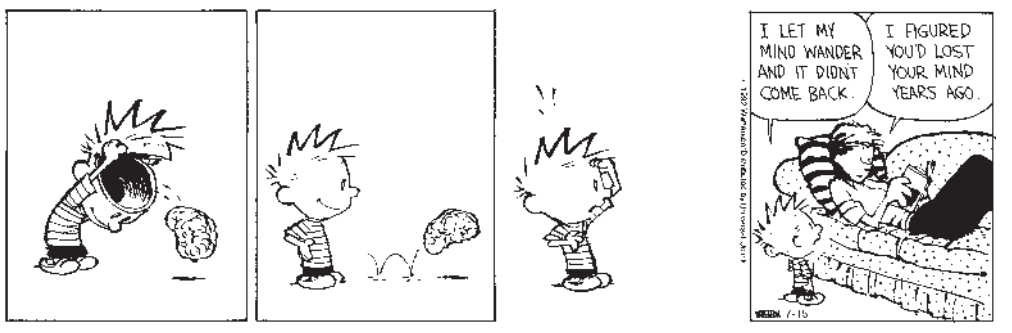
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

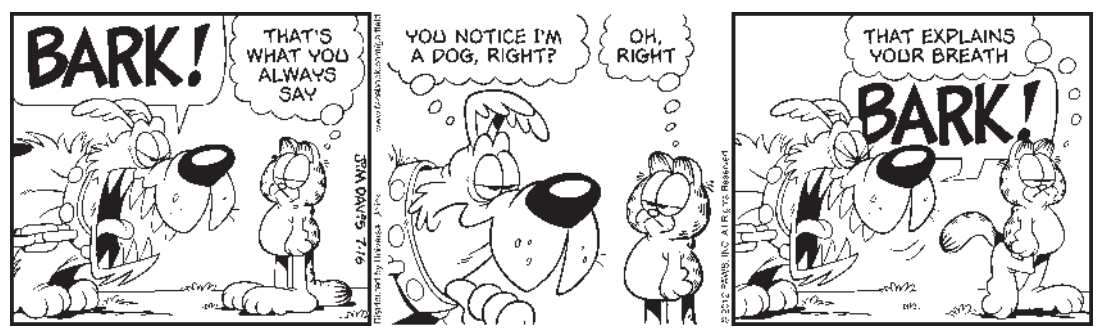
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



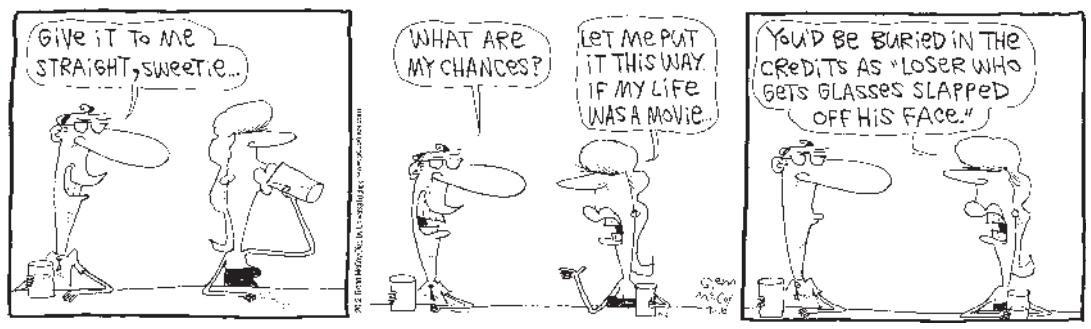
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
YOU JUST DID.
WHAT?
UHH... WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?
IT'S ABOUT THIS 1% COTTAGE CHEESE.
YES?
WHAT'S THE OTHER 99%?
I'VE GOT TO SELL SOME OF MY POEMS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Give it to me straight, sweetie...
WHAT ARE MY CHANCES?
Let me put it this way. If my life was a movie...
You'd be buried in the credits as "loser who gets glasses slapped off his face."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

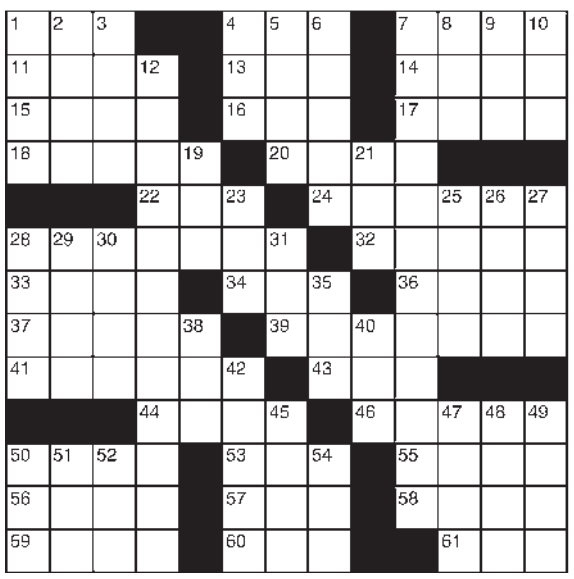
ACROSS
1 Cleopatra's snake
4 Easter entree
7 Robust
11 Masticate
13 Venusian vessel?
14 By word of mouth
15 Actress Spelling
16 Gun, slangily
17 Kittens' comments
18 "The — of Music"
20 Anger
22 Weep loudly
24 History-making events
28 Lost
32 "Nonsense!"
33 "Do — others ..."
34 Sticky stuff
36 Greek vowel
37 Angry look
39 Satchmo's instrument
41 Hearty laugh
43 Kreskin's claim, for short
44 Yoked team
46 English composition
50 Lather
53 Charged particle
55 — podrida
56 Actress Hathaway
57 Genetic letters
58 Void partner
59 Bruin
60 Pooch
61 "Catcher in the —"

DOWN
1 New Testament book
2 "Scat!"
3 Lima's land
4 Embrace
5 Somewhere out there
6 Decorator's concern
7 Mr. Burns' employee
8 Exist
9 Legislation
10 Golfer Ernie
12 Painter known for maritime scenes
19 "— good deed"
21 Pouter's protrusion
23 Ginormous
25 Buy stuff
26 London gallery
27 Hit flies
28 Dogsled command
29 3-Down tribe
30 Pack away
31 Speck
35 Raw rock
38 Remiss
40 Work with
42 Bizarre
45 Forbidden action
47 Speak unclearly
48 Partner
49 Harvard rival
50 "Great!"
51 Individual
52 Literary collection
54 Run-down horse

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	L	E	G	A	L	■	V	I	A	L	S	■
T	O	D	A	T	E	■	E	R	R	A	T	A
R	A	G	T	O	P	■	T	O	P	D	O	G
U	T	E	■	M	E	L	O	N	■	D	N	A
S	H	I	V	■	W	I	I	■	S	F	F	P
T	E	N	E	T	■	E	N	G	A	R	D	E
■	■	■	L	A	D	■	G	E	L	■	■	■
G	U	M	D	R	O	P	■	E	T	H	O	S
O	N	I	T	■	W	E	B	■	S	I	F	T
U	R	N	■	K	A	P	U	T	■	A	L	A
D	O	G	T	A	G	■	R	A	G	T	A	G
A	L	L	E	L	E	■	S	C	O	U	T	S
■	I	F	D	F	R	■	T	H	O	S	F	■

Saturday's answer 7-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: AnnaLynne McCord, 25; Jayma Mays, 33; Corey Feldman, 41; Will Ferrell, 45.

Happy Birthday: Look for ways to use your skills more diversely. Make your home more conducive to creativity, work and getting ahead, and you will find a way to bring in extra cash. Romance is highlighted this year, if you are open to change. How you perceive others will improve your relationships both personally and professionally. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 28, 32, 39, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Face your troubles head-on. Your ability to stand up to anyone will put you in command and enable you to show your talent. You'll draw a crowd, giving you the platform required to present what you have to offer. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Say less and do more. Opposition will surface if you are too vocal. What you accomplish at the end of the day is what will count. Take action and you'll be the one who reaps the rewards. An empty promise is apparent. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Set your priorities and strive for attainable goals. Discussing plans with family will lead to a challenge that will motivate you to make alterations to your life. Love is in the stars, but don't be too quick to make a commitment. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Not everyone will stick to the truth. Don't give anyone the opportunity to take over, but you have to be honest about your capabilities. Rewards will develop if you do what you say and say what you do. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You are in control. Be a participant and enjoy the spotlight. Share what you have to offer, and your leadership ability will surface. Push your way to the top and own your position openly. You will be envied by some, but respected by all. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Avoid being bullied into something you don't want to do. Success will come from following your heart and using your skills to get ahead. Concern over what others do will slow you down. Focus on the moment and what you have to offer. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel, intrigue and learning should be your goals. Getting together with inspiring people will help with an important decision. Love is highlighted, and planning romance is recommended. A partnership will improve your future. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Refuse to let someone who doesn't understand the nature of what you do intervene or push you in the wrong direction. Disregard any complaints you receive. You'll surpass expectations when everyone sees the results you get from your hard work. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone close to you will reveal what you really have to offer, so don't exaggerate. A past lover or business partner will offer you something interesting. Consider the changes entailed before making a commitment. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): An idea brought to your attention has potential. Develop a plan that will benefit everyone with a vested interest in what you are doing. Experience will help you recognize why something similar didn't work in the past. Proceed with caution. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Improve your home life with a minor adjustment. Sharing what you have with someone will open up opportunities to do more of the things you enjoy doing most. Love is on the rise, and a promise will stabilize your life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Less talk and more action will help you avoid complaints. Focus on what you can do to make your surroundings more comfortable. Don't be fooled by what someone says. Chances are good the truth is not being told. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, sophisticated and just. You are playful, curious and imaginative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	7	1	2				
9		1			8			
8	4		5			3		
2		5					4	
6				4				7
	7					2		9
		3			4		7	8
			9			5		2
				5	2	1	6	

Difficulty Level ★ 7/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	6	4	2	9	7	5	1
4	1	5	7	3	6	9	8	2
9	2	7	8	1	5	6	4	3
7	6	9	5	4	2	1	3	8
5	4	1	9	8	3	2	7	6
2	8	3	6	7	1	5	9	4
1	7	2	3	9	8	4	6	5
6	9	8	1	5	4	3	2	7
3	5	4	2	6	7	8	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SWIMMING FUN **Solution: 9 letters**

D	D	E	O	S	T	O	T	S	N	O	R	K	E	L
E	G	L	U	A	L	E	G	S	O	G	R	C	M	F
E	O	G	B	Q	S	E	T	P	S	N	E	I	I	E
P	H	M	N	T	I	R	V	A	S	I	T	K	W	E
S	O	E	I	I	U	N	S	E	E	N	A	N	S	T
C	P	N	A	D	Z	N	H	M	L	I	E	I	C	I
O	G	L	G	L	S	I	D	C	A	A	B	H	I	M
R	Y	E	A	P	T	O	N	E	E	R	G	P	S	E
I	T	D	A	S	B	H	D	O	R	T	G	L	S	K
N	E	C	I	M	H	T	Y	H	R	W	E	O	O	E
G	F	L	O	A	T	I	N	G	F	H	A	D	R	E
B	A	C	K	S	T	R	O	K	E	A	C	T	K	P
L	S	E	T	E	L	H	T	A	G	E	S	N	E	E
E	L	E	A	R	N	O	I	T	O	M	I	T	Y	R
P	A	D	D	L	E	K	O	R	T	S	E	D	I	S

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Last Saturday's Answer: Manitoba

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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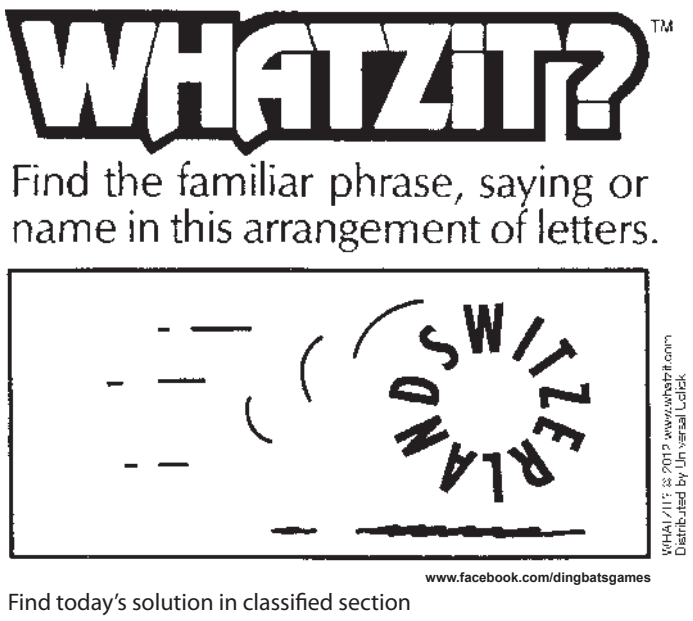
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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Job Vacancy Announcement

ALLIED CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

(2) Bakers – At least 5 years experience as Baker in a commercial baking industry, capable of high volume standardized bread production. Must have knowledge in HACCP food prep procedures

No phone calls please.
E-mail resume to psgspn@gmail.com, Re: Catering
Closing Date: July 20, 2012

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AC PACIFIC LLC, DBA STAR SANDS

Is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING POSITIVE, ENERGETIC AND OUTGOING INDIVIDUALS FOR THE POSITION OF:

1 – ACCOUNTANT – Applicants must have at least 5 years work experience, Must be computer literate, specially the use of accounting software such as QB, ACCUPOS, Must have excellent communication skills (oral and written), Must be able to perform bank reconciliation/Payroll/BGRT tax, Input all excise tax payable and other billing to QB, analyze receiving data from POS to QB, record all vendor invoices to QB on daily basis, review and prepare vendor payment based on due dates, Must be detail and deadline oriented, Partake in physical inventory, Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

1 – MERCHANDISER – Applicants must have at least 3 years work experience in retail industry. Have great sense of marketing, promotion and advertising techniques. Must be computer literate and must able to read/write and speak English as she/he will order product via phone, emails, fax from off-island and on-island supplier, ability to speak other languages such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian is a plus but not required, Must be able to work flexible hours, including weekends and holidays.

12 – SALE ASSOCIATES – Applicants must have work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems. Must have excellent communication skills (orals and written) Must have excellent customer service skills. Ability to speak other languages such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian is a plus but not required, Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

1 – GENERAL MAINTENANCE – Applicants must have at least 5 years work experience, Must have excellent communication skills (oral and written) Applicants must have ability to perform multiple task but not limited to plumbing, electrical, carpentry and masonry work and able to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

NO PHONE CALL

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P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
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(1) Sales Representative

2 years experience. Knowledge in Chinese language a plus. Flexible hours. Salary $5.05/hr. Call 235-6128. Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748.

MARIANAS STAR CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) Heavy Eqpt. Maintenance/Repairer

Minimum of 5 years experience or more required. Must be knowledgeable in the maintenance and repair of diesel powered engine and related equipments using power and hand tools, generator engine overhaul of 1000KW and more, electrical control panel, digital voltage regulator setting and other related duties.

Email to marianas_star@yahoo.com
Fax: 288-7824 Tel.: 234-5577

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-028

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

Safety Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Safety Officer or his/her designee. Assists in inspections to inform, enforce and regulate compliance and environmental issues; writes citations for corrective actions. Assists in responding to incidents and emergencies to ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations; ensures customer is issues are addressed and proper procedures are followed. Drafts reports on accidents and incidents. Assists in conducting a wide variety of workshops and/or orientations. Positions are also responsible for: Assisting field workers with traffic safety; Ensuring proper protective equipment is being used; Transporting vehicle operators for drug or alcohol testing; Investigating property theft and personal injuries; Conducting safety orientations and workshops. Coordinates worker's compensation filing and reporting. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S): Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,000.00 to $20,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and two years of work experience. Knowledge of: OSHA and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Investigation techniques; Safety procedures; Mitigation procedures. Skills in: Conducting inspections; Conducting investigations; Reading plans and specifications; Performing testing; Interpreting policies, procedures, rules and regulations; Preparing reports; Giving presentations; Conducting workshops; Using a two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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JOE HILL, ESQ.,
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FAX: (670) 234-7753

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MIR MAHBOBUR RAHMAN, Petitioner,	] FCD DI] CIVIL ACTION
versus	] NO. 12-0294]
JUDITH JULIAN KINOCH-RAHMAN, Respondent.	] **SUMMONS**]]

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, limwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 20th of June, 2012.

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: July 13, 2012 POSITION: Guest Relations Officer
CLOSE DATE: July 20, 2012 SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Japanese Language highly preferred. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk or concierge services strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE: July 13, 2012 POSITION: Front Desk Clerk
CLOSE DATE: July 20, 2012 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk and / or concierge position strongly preferred. Applicants must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready to smile.

OPEN DATE: July 13, 2012 POSITION: Cashier
CLOSE DATE: July 20, 2012 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in retail sales experience preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE: July 13, 2012 POSITION: Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: July 20, 2012 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE: July 13, 2012 POSITION: Housekeeping Attendant
CLOSE DATE: July 20, 2012 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE: July 13, 2012 POSITION: Laundry Attendant
CLOSE DATE: July 20, 2012 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in housekeeping or laundry services preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE: July 13, 2012 POSITION: Education/Training Coordinator
CLOSE DATE: July 20, 2012 SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum three (3) year experience preferred. Human Resources / personnel management experience preferred. Excellent communications skills and presentation skills highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: July 13, 2012 POSITION: Technical Support Specialist (Graphic Designer)
CLOSE DATE: July 20, 2012 SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in computer graphic design. Formal education/training in IT or Design related subjects highly preferred.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

JVA 12-022: Mechanic, Six (6) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-023: Electrician, Two (2) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-024: Operator, Four (4) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-025: Machinist, One (1) position or more, depending on funding
JVA 12-026: Welder, Two (2) positions or more, depending on funding.

LOCATION:
- Power Plant 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to Power Plant, Songsong, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to other sections of CUC throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- However these positions are primarily for the power plants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations. Otherwise, not contracted.

POSITION(S): See above.

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Power Generation are also responsible for: Control room Operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads.. Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing , exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education Program) and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Admin. office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-027

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

Safety Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Technical Manager for Oil or his/her designee. Assists in inspections to inform, enforce and regulate compliance and environmental issues; writes citations for corrective actions. Assists in responding to incidents and emergencies to ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations; ensures customer is issues are addressed and proper procedures are followed. Drafts reports on accidents and incidents. Assists in conducting a wide variety of workshops and/or orientations. Positions are also responsible for: Assisting field workers with traffic safety; Ensuring proper protective equipment is being used; Transporting vehicle operators for drug or alcohol testing; Investigating property theft and personal injuries; Conducting safety orientations and workshops. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S):
- Power Plant 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to Power Plant, Songsong, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to other sections of CUC throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- However these positions are primarily for the Technical Manager of Oil Office on Saipan for the power plants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,000.00 to $20,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations. Otherwise, not contracted.

POSITION(S): Two.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and two years of work experience. Knowledge of: OSHA and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Investigation techniques; Safety procedures; Mitigation procedures. Skills in: Conducting inspections; Conducting investigations; Reading plans and specifications; Performing testing; Interpreting policies, procedures, rules and regulations; Preparing reports; Giving presentations; Conducting workshops; Using a two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIOR SPECIALIST

Opening Date: 8/9/11
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA No. 11-033: Operator at Power Generation
JVA No. 11-034: Mechanic at Power Generation
JVA No. 11-035: Electrician at Power Generation
JVA No. 11-036: Electrician at Water & Wastewater

LOCATION: Respective division; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $30,000.00 to $45,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of two per JVA.

For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

SENIOR SPECIALIST

Opening Date: 8/9/11
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA No. 11-037: Mechanic at Rota Power Plant
JVA No. 11-038: Electrician at Rota Power Plant

LOCATION: Power Plant; Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $30,000.00 to $45,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of one per JVA.

For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

TRADES ASSISTANT

Opening Date: 8/9/11
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA 11-039: Assistant at Power Generation
VA 11-040: Assistant at Power Division (T&D)
JVA 11-041: Assistant at Water Division
JVA 11-042: Assistant at Wastewater Division

LOCATION: Respective division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $11,036.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of one per JVA.

For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Opening Date: 8/9/11
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA 11-043: Electrician
JVA 11-044: Mechanic
JVA 11-045: Operator
JVA 11-046: Welder
JVA 11-047: Machinist

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of one per JVA.

Remaining applicants for JVA numbers 11-043 to 11-047 will be considered part of the appropriate JVA numbers 12-022 to 12-026.
For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Opening Date: 5/18/12
Closing Date: Monday, July 23, 2012

JVA 12-011: Mechanic
JVA 12-012: Electrician
JVA 12-013: Operator
JVA 12-014: Machinist
JVA 12-015: Welder

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.
POSITION(S): Minimum of one per JVA.

Remaining applicants for JVA numbers 12-011 to 12-015 will be considered part of the appropriate JVA numbers 12-022 to 12-026.
For More Information, Contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

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Cabrera steal sparks Padres victory

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pinch-runner Everth Cabrera stole home to tie the game with two outs in the ninth inning and Will Venable scored the winning run when closer Kenley Jansen threw the ball past catcher A.J. Ellis, leading the San Diego Padres to a 7-6 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League on Saturday.

Alex Hinshaw (1-1) recorded two outs to get the victory, ending the Padres' 10-game losing streak at Dodger Stadium. Huston Street worked a perfect ninth for his 14th save in 14 attempts.

Jansen (4-3) ended up with his fourth blown save opportunity in 20 chances.

Yonder Alonso and Venable sparked the winning rally with consecutive singles, putting runners on the corners with none out. Jansen then struck out Cameron Maybin at the end of a grueling 11-pitch at-bat and retired pinch-hitter Mark Kotsay on a popup after Venable stole second.

After Alexi Amarista worked the count to 2-2, Cabrera dashed for home and a stunned Jansen threw the ball all the way to the screen, allowing the go-ahead run to score.

AP

The San Diego Padres' Everth Cabrera celebrates with teammates after stealing home against the Los Angeles Dodgers in the ninth inning of a National League baseball game in Los Angeles Saturday, July 14, 2012.

Phillies 8, Rockies 5

In Denver, Carlos Ruiz hit a three-run homer as Philadelphia hung on to beat Colorado and end a five-game losing streak.

With one out in the eighth, reliever Jake Diekman hit Tyler Colvin with a pitch and walked Jordan Pacheco. Brian Sanchez relieved and Wilin Rosario hit a three-run homer, pulling the Rockies to within 6-5. But All-Star closer Jonathan Papelbon ended the rally by getting five outs for his 19th save in 21 chances.

Vance Worley (5-5) allowed two runs on eight hits in 6 2-3 innings.

The Phillies jolted Jeremy Guthrie (3-9) with a four-run first. He allowed four runs on seven hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Giants 3, Astros 2

In San Francisco, Hector Sanchez singled in Pablo Sandoval in the bottom of the 12th inning to give the Giants a win over Houston.

Sanchez, whose throwing error in the top of the ninth helped Houston score the tying run and force extra innings, hit a sharp grounder off Houston closer Brett Myers that bounced off the glove of Astros second baseman Jose Altuve and went into right field.

Sandoval, who opened the inning with an infield single, easily beat the throw home from Matt Downs.

Jeremy Affeldt (1-1) got the last out in the top of the 12th.

Braves 8, Mets 7

In Atlanta, Jason Heyward hit an RBI single to cap a three-run rally in the eighth inning as the Braves beat New York for their sixth straight win.

The Braves' comeback prevented a shaky R.A. Dickey from getting his 11th win in a row. Bobby Parnell (2-2) gave up RBI singles with two outs in the eighth to Michael Bourn, Martin Prado and Heyward.

Mets manager Terry Collins was ejected while disputing a call in Atlanta's two-run fifth.

Anthony Varvaro (1-0) pitched the eighth to get the win and Craig Kimbrel finished for his 27th save in 28 chances.

Reds 3, Cardinals 2

In Cincinnati, Ryan Ludwick homered in the 10th inning to lead the Reds to their fifth consecutive victory and back into a first-place tie with the Pirates in the NL Central division.

Ludwick, a former Cardinal, got two strikes to start his at-bat against Victor Marte (2-2) and then fouled off three pitches before connecting on his 13th homer of the season.

Sam LeCure (3-2) pitched a perfect 10th inning to get the win.

Yadier Molina homered for St. Louis, which stranded 11 runners.

Cubs 4, Diamondbacks 1

In Chicago, Ryan Dempster matched the Cubs' record with a 33-inning scoreless streak as he pitched six solid frames to lead Chicago past Arizona.

Dempster matched the club shutout streak set by Ken Holtzman in 1969.

Dempster (5-3) allowed four hits and set a career best by winning his fifth straight start. He leads the majors with a 1.86 ERA.

Cubs manager Dale Sveum limited Dempster to 89 pitches in his second start since coming off the disabled list with tightness in his pitching shoulder.

Marlins 2, Nationals 1

In Miami, Mark Buehrle pitched seven innings to help the Marlins end a three-game slide.

Carlos Lee and John Buck each drove in a run for Miami.

Buehrle (9-8) allowed one run and six hits, struck out seven and walked two while improving to 4-0 with a sparkling 0.94 ERA in his last four starts. Steve Cishek pitched 1 2-3 innings to earn his second save.

All-Star Gio Gonzalez (12-4) struck out nine in six innings for Washington. He gave up two runs and five hits.

Pirates 6, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run shot for his fourth homer in the last three games, leading Pittsburgh to the victory.

Casey McGehee also went deep and Kevin Correia pitched six effective innings as the Pirates remained level with the Cincinnati Reds for the NL Central lead.

Correia (6-6) allowed four runs, two earned, and four hits while improving to 4-0 with a 3.81 ERA in his last five starts.

McCutchen hit his 20th homer in the third and also made a nice sliding catch on a sinking line drive by Martin Maldonaldo with two runners on to end the eighth.

Milwaukee starter Marco Estrada struck out 11 in 5 2-3 innings. Kameron Loe (4-3) got the loss.

Mariners 7, Rangers 0

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez struck out 12 in a three-hitter as the Seattle Mariners beat Yu Darvish and the Texas Rangers.

Hernandez (7-5) limited the powerful Rangers lineup to three singles while improving to 3-0 with a 1.40 ERA in his last six starts.

John Jaso homered for Seattle, which scored four times in the first inning.

Darvish (10-6) got off to a rough start and never recovered. He issued a leadoff walk to Dustin Ackley in the first and Ichiro Suzuki followed with a single to right. Suzuki moved to second on a wild pitch before Darvish hit Casper Wells to load the bases.

Jaso then walked on four pitches to force home a run. Suzuki scored when first baseman Michael Young mishandled Saunders' hard grounder, and Seager added a two-run single.

Darvish allowed seven runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings. The Japanese star is 1-2 against the Mariners this season with a 9.00 ERA.

Orioles 8, Tigers 6

In Baltimore, Taylor Teagarden hit a two-run homer in the 13th inning in his first game of the season to seal an 8-6 victory over Detroit.

In a back-and-forth duel that lasted 4 hours, 43 minutes, Baltimore scored three runs in the 13th to secure its 10th straight extra-inning win and end Detroit's six-game winning streak.

In the bottom half of the 13th, J.J. Hardy ended an 0-for-28 slide with a solo homer off Joaquin Benoit (1-2). After Adam Jones was hit by a pitch with two outs, Teagarden homered over the right-field wall. He had been out since the beginning of the season with a strained back.

Kevin Gregg (3-2) got the last out in the 13th for the win.

Yankees 5, Angels 3

In New York, Robinson Cano and Curtis Granderson each hit two-run homers to lead the Yankees past Los Angeles.

Freddy Garcia and three relievers kept Angels outfielder Mark Trumbo in the ballpark, denying him a homer in a record sixth straight game against the Yankees.

Cano's 21st homer made it 2-2 in the first inning and extended his 17-game hitting streak. Granderson connected for his 24th home run with one out in the third after Chris Stewart singled leading off.

Garcia (4-2) labored through five innings, while the Angels' Jerome Williams (6-6) took the loss.

Blue Jays 11, Indians 9

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion hit two home runs and Yunel Escobar also went deep as the Blue Jays used an eight-run third inning to beat Cleveland.

Encarnacion and Escobar both hit two-run shots in Toronto's highest-scoring inning of the season.

Shelley Duncan, Michael Brantley and Casey Kotchman homered for the Indians. Down 10-2 early, Cleveland made it close with a five-run eighth.

The home runs were the 24th and 25th of the season for Encarnacion, who signed a three-year, $29 million contract extension over the All-Star break. It was his first multi-homer game of the season and the eighth of his career.

Rays 5, Red Sox 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, David Price outpitched Clay Buchholz and Tampa Bay scored twice in the seventh inning without getting a hit to rally past Boston.

Price (12-4) allowed three runs and six hits in 7 1-3 innings to become the first 12-game winner in the American League.

Buchholz (8-3) took a 3-2 lead into the seventh before walking the first batter of the inning and hitting the next. Hideki Matsui was walked intentionally to load the bases with one out, and the Rays pulled even when pinch-hitter Jose Lobaton drew a walk from Matt Albers.

Elliot Johnson's sacrifice fly gave Tampa Bay a 4-3 lead, and B.J. Upton's solo homer provided a two-run cushion in the eighth.

Royals 6, White Sox 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alcides Escobar hit a pair of homers off Jake Peavy as the Royals topped Chicago.

Escobar had just two homers all season and 11 in his career before he connected for a two-run shot off Chicago's All-Star right-hander in the third inning.

Chicago's Adam Dunn homered and Dayan Viciedo hit an RBI triple in the sixth to make it 3-all, but Escobar connected again against Peavy (7-6) in the seventh to put the Royals ahead for good.

Greg Holland (3-2) won in relief.

Athletics 9, Twins 3

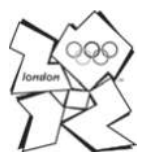
In Minneapolis, Chris Carter and Yoenis Cespedes each homered and drove in three runs, powering Oakland past Minnesota.

Seth Smith and Brandon Moss also homered for the A's, who won for the eighth time in nine games to move two games above the .500 mark for the first time in two months.

Minnesota had 14 hits, with every starter getting at least one, but still lost its fourth in a row.

Tommy Milone (9-6) got the win, while Cole De Vries (2-2) picked up the loss.

Security boss sorry for bungled Olympics contract



LONDON (AP)—The boss of British security group G4S said Saturday he was sorry that his company had bungled the contract to help protect the 2012 Olympic Games, a humbling televised apology that followed days of ugly news about his firm's failures.

Nick Buckles spoke to the BBC as British newspapers were filled with accounts of chaotic recruitment, sloppy security, and even an allegation that some G4S staffers weren't fluent in English. The firm has not been able to provide enough guards, and some 3,500 British troops are being called in to help fill the gap in security and police have been put on notice that they may need to help fill the breach.

"We're deeply disappointed and we certainly are very sorry for what's happened over the last week or two," the chief executive said. "It's a very complex process. No one's ever undertaken to recruit 10,000 fully-trained security staff for such a lengthy period of time."

In December G4S PLC promised to provide that number of people to help keep the games safe, although in reality far more than 10,000 people need to be recruited in order to compensate for attrition, sickness, and absenteeism. Buckles said that the operation was a "mammoth undertaking" involving a complex recruitment operation in five or six different stages, adding that, as of Saturday, some 4,000 people were on the ground and that about 9,000 people were still in the pipeline—which still leaves a significant shortfall.

Matteson shoots 66, leads by 3 shots at John Deere

SILVIS, Ill. (AP)—Troy Matteson enjoys having the lead going into the final round of a golf tournament.

Steve Stricker doesn't mind having to come from behind.

Each has their chance in Sunday's final round of the John Deere Classic. Matteson has a three-stroke lead over Stricker going into the last 18 holes at TPC Deere Run.

Both Matteson, a two-time PGA Tour winner, and Stricker, chasing his fourth straight title at the Deere, shot 5-under par 66 on Saturday.

Matteson had a total of 18-under par 195, with Stricker alone in second at 198.

"I've been in the position Troy's in, and it's a difficult position because you have the expectation that you should go out and win," Stricker said. "It's still very hard, because guys behind you are going for broke. They can be a little bit more aggressive and take a shot at pins, where the guy with the lead may steer away from pins and play more cautiously.

"The bigger lead you have, the more you expect and everyone else expects you to win."

Matteson doesn't mind being on top of the leaderboard.

"You always want to be ahead rather than behind," Matteson said. "Every stroke you can gain is good. I think you still need to be aggressive. It's anybody's tournament.

AP

Troy Matteson tees off on the 18th hole during the third round of the John Deere Classic golf tournament at TPC Deere Run in Silvis Ill., Saturday, July 14, 2012.

"I mean, a guy at 12 under could shoot 60. You have to come up with a lot of under-par shots. I'm going to do the same thing I've done every day. I know those guys are going to, too. They're just going to be trying to shoot as low as they can."

Stricker is attempting to join Tom Morris Jr., Walter Hagen, Gene Sarazen and Tiger Woods as a winner four straight times in the same tournament. Woods has accomplished the feat twice.

"Nobody's paying attention to what I do," Matteson said. "It's great for me if I win. If Stricker wins, it's a really big story."

Stricker, seeking his second victory of the year and 13th of his career, was five strokes behind Matteson at one point during the back nine, then surged.

His 76-yard wedge shot to the par-4 14th green landed 2 feet from the hole to set up the first of four straight birdies. He sank a 5-footer at the 15th, a 6-footer at the 16th, and an 11-footer at the par-5 17th after missing the fairway with his tee shot and sending his approach into a greenside bunker.

"Those were four nice birdies in a row, which I really needed," Stricker said.

The final one made up for the bogey on the last hole, set up by shoving his tee shot into a grove of trees to the right of the fairway.

Nonetheless, he posted his 37th under-par round at Deere Run in 39 attempts, and is 109-under par at the course since the tournament moved here in 2000.

They'll be in the final twosome, but others may have a say in the outcome, including Brian Harman and former Masters champion Zach Johnson, who are 14-under 199.

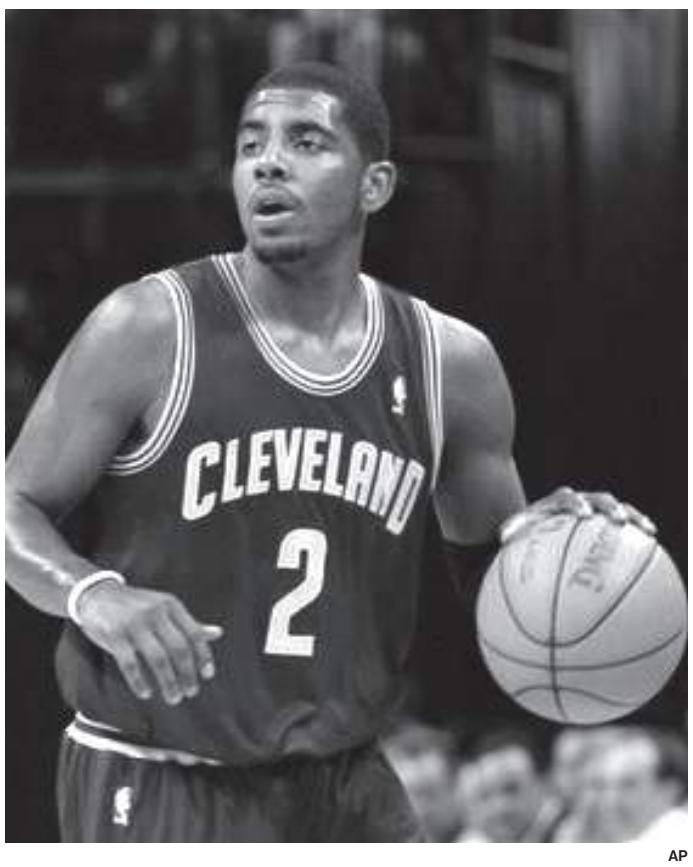
Johnson, whose gallery in the third round rivaled Stricker's, is from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and is a member of the tournament's board of directors. While chasing his first win at Deere Run, he understands how Stricker would make history by triumphing.

"If I can't win it, I wouldn't mind seeing him win it," Johnson said. "It's not hard to be a fan of his. But anything can happen. There are guys behind making birdies."

In contrast to Stricker and Johnson, Matteson played in relative seclusion, even though he was in the final pairing with Harman. There was little applause when his approach shot landed on the 18th green.

"I'm in a different position in life (than Stricker and Johnson)," Matteson said. "These guys are Ryder Cuppers, winning major championships. People buy tickets to see them."

NBA rookie of year Kyrie Irving breaks right hand



AP

In this April 23, 2012, photo, Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving brings the ball up during NBA basketball game against the Memphis Grizzlies in Memphis, Tenn.

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyrie Irving, the NBA's reigning rookie of the year, broke his right hand during the Cavaliers' practice on Saturday in Las Vegas.

Irving will return to Cleveland to be examined by team doctors Sunday and said he likely will undergo surgery. The Cavs said in a release Saturday night that they expect Irving, their leading scorer last season who recently dazzled during scrimmages against the U.S. Olympic team, to be ready for the start of training camp in late September. However, the team said it will not have a timeline for Irving's return until after he is examined.

The team said Irving injured his hand slapping the padding on a wall at the team's practice site. The injury occurred after Irving committed a turnover toward the end of the morning practice. Irving was in Las Vegas practicing with Cleveland's summer league team.

"It was just a freak accident," said Irving, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2011 draft.

Irving's injury is a tough blow for the 20-year-old, who recently wowed observers during workouts against the American team headed to the London Games. Irving also had made headlines by challenging Kobe Bryant to a game of 1-on-1 with the loser promising to pay $50,000 to the winner's charity—a video of Bryant and Irving engaging in trash talk has become a hit on the Internet.

"I am a little disappointed," Irving told reporters. "I have to be more responsible about my health. It was just crazy. It happened so fast."

Irving averaged 18.5 points, 5.4 assists and 3.7 assists last season and proved to be worthy of the top pick. He has given the Cavaliers and their fans reason to believe the franchise can return to prominence following the painful departure of LeBron James.

Irving missed 14 games last season with injuries. He sat out 10 games with a shoulder injury, three with a concussion and one when he was ill. Irving played in just 11 games as a freshman at Duke because of a serious foot injury.

Felton returning to Knicks as option if Lin goes

Raymond Felton is returning to New York, calling into question whether the Knicks plan to re-sign fellow point guard Jeremy Lin.

Felton's agent confirmed a Yahoo Sports report Saturday that Felton would be signed and traded by Portland to New York.

Lin has signed an offer sheet with the Houston Rockets, and the Knicks have repeatedly said they would match any offer for their breakout star. But with the third year of the contract worth about $15 million, they can certainly pass now after signing Jason Kidd and getting Felton back.

Felton played well in half a season in New York, averaging 17.1 points before the Knicks sent him to Denver as part of the package for Carmelo Anthony in February 2011. He struggled this season with the Trail Blazers, scoring 11.4 points per game on 40.7 percent shooting and briefly losing his starting job.

Still, he was considered an option as a veteran backup to Lin if the Knicks didn't get Steve Nash or Kidd. They signed Kidd, and still pursued Felton.

Now the question is where will Lin play next season.

Coach Mike Woodson said Wednesday that Lin would not only be back but would enter next season as the Knicks' starting point guard. He then signed his offer sheet worth about $25 million for three years Friday and the Knicks have until 11:59 p.m. EDT Tuesday to match the offer, according to a person with knowledge of the process. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract had not been announced.

The Knicks already lost one guard Saturday when they elected not to match the offer Landry Fields signed with Toronto, worth around $20 million over three years. The second-round pick from Stanford had been a starter during his two seasons with New York.

"I want to thank ALL the Knick fans out there for their support over the past two years!" he wrote on Twitter. "Much love and respect, you will be missed."

It would be more surprising if the Knicks passed on matching Lin's offer. The undrafted guard from Harvard emerged as the starter in February and averaged 17.9 points in 27 games before needing surgery to repair torn knee cartilage. The league's first American-born player of Chinese or Taiwanese decent became one of the team's most popular players and helped the Knicks draw huge TV ratings locally and in Asia. His merchandise sold heavily, making it unlikely the Knicks would want him to leave.

But with Kidd and Felton, they have two veterans who would be respected by the Knicks' frontcourt trio of Carmelo Anthony, Tyson Chandler and Amare Stoudemire. Stoudemire and Felton had good chemistry in the pick-and-roll offense and neither has been as good since without the other. ***(AP)***

St. Michael Angels players still top SML stats

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The St. Michael Medical Response Angels' John B. Reyes and Manny Cabrera are still the batting and pitching leaders in the ongoing 2012 Saipan Major League Baseball.

After last Thursday's games, Reyes has connected 17 hits off 29 at bats for an impressive 0.586 batting average, while Cabrera remains the lone hurler with a perfect 0.00 Earned Run Average (ERA).

Reyes is followed by the Aces' Jesus Iguel (0.533), IP&E-Shell-Fielders' Anthony Tenorio (0.485), Tan Holdings-Brewers' Byron Kaipat (0.480), Yankees' Chris Camacho (0.429), Angels' Marvin Kaipat (0.407), Yankees' Ben Jones Jr. (0.406), Aces' Nokki Saralu (0.393), JD Dikito (0.387), and Angels' Nunu Kapileo (0.385). Five others were swinging better than 0.300. Statistics were based on at least 25 at bats.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The St. Michael Angels' John Reyes runs to home plate during their 15-0 win over the D-9ers in the SML at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Byron Kaipat's 13 runs batted in (RBI) leads the category, ahead of Camacho (11), Saralu (10), Aces' Juan Iguel (9), Brewers' Manny Sablan (9), Yankees' Jerome Delos Santos (6), and Aces' Ben Tasiacan (6).

Yankees' Tom Agulto joined Delos Santos and Saralu in the home run club. The three have a long ball apiece.

Tenorio's three triples still lead Yankees' Dave Camacho (2), Jones Jr. (2) and eight others, who have one thus far in the season. Kapileo earned a share of the lead in doubles (4) with Brewers' Roy Celis, pacing Juan Iguel, Reyes and Tenorio, who have three each thus far.

Saralu leads the runs scored race by a nose with 16, but has a lot of company vying for the glory. Juan Iguel and teammates Jesus Iguel, Jones Jr. and Reyes have 15 each with Tenorio (14), Delos Santos (13), Celis (12), Aces' Juna Maratita (12), and Sablan (12) still in the race.

In pitching, Cabrera's perfect ERA mark through 13 and 2/3 innings pitched (IP) remains on the top line.

He leads Brewers' Thomas Camacho (16,1-IP/0.55-ERA), Yankees' Joshua Jones (29/0.62), Brewers' Vince Cepeda (25.2/0.70), Angels' Franco Flores (32/2.25) and Aces' Maratita (11.2/2.32), Taisacan (14.2/2.46), Angels' Peter Tenorio (10.2/2.53), IP&E' Brandon Santos (26.1/3.08) and Aces Juan Iguel (21.1/3.80).

Jones' 62 strikeouts, in just three 29 innings, still lead the category, ahead of main threats Elton Santos (43) of IP&E, and Cepeda (41) with IP&E's Brandon Santos (23) and Flores (21) a way back and seven others ranging between 11 and 15.

The team standings show the Yankees in first place with a 7-1 record. The Brewers (6-2), Aces (6-3), Angels (5-4), and Fielders (5-5) are still alive in the playoff race, while the Rep. Sylvester Iguel Masters (1-7) and Rep. Ray Yumul D-9ers (0-8) failed to make the cut.

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

short 9-2 MDX rally to open a 66-59 advantage, going into the final three minutes of the match. Abuy had 7 in that run with his last basket coming off a steal from Elmer Pineda during an inbound play.

Besides its backcourt errors, LBT also missed crucial free throws that could have kept the team afloat against MDX's uprising. MDX got into foul trouble at the 5:20 mark, sending three LBT players into the 15-foot line in the ensuing plays, but the eventual runner-up went only 3-for-6 aside from the lone field goal it got from Lilio Tiples.

Alex Ocampo made the last split, cutting the lead to eight, 62-70, and LBT had a chance to move closer after an MDX botched play. However, LBT lost the ball anew with Martin Moreno picking Ton Diaz's pocket. Moreno, who had only 2 points in the first half before making 14 in the second, then canned both charities for MDX's double-digit lead, 72-62,

Two more miscues sealed the doom for LBT, as Bruce Berline chased Felix Palacios after the inbound play and the latter was forced to throw a strong bounce pass with the ball rolling out of the baseline. Berline then converted an and-1 play on the other end and later slammed the door on Palacios past the midcourt line with the latter losing possession anew. A James Abuy triple from the left corner put icing on the cake and MDX went on to finish the 2012 season undefeated in eight games.

Art Trajano top-scored for MDX with 17 points, sparking the team's rally late in the first quarter. He came off the bench and scored six points, bringing MDX within nine at the end of the opening period, 12-21. LBT erected a 19-6 lead behind the 7 points of Ed Cosino, who was then held to three field goals for the remainder of the match.

Trajano kept on leading MDX's recovery in the second canto, scoring the team's first six markers and after playing catch up in the entire opening period, the defending champion finally grabbed the game's momentum in the last two minutes of the first half as LBT was slapped with two straight fouls.

The first one was Felix's Palacios' unsportsmanlike foul on a driving Bernard Montano and the second was a technical foul charged on Cosino for excessive complaining. Montano missed the two free throws, while Ariel Jinang made the two technical charities to tie the game, 29-all, and with MDX keeping possession, the latter got another two points off a layup for their first taste of the lead.

The first half ended with MDX on top, 33-29, and the game remained tight in the third with the opposing teams exchanging leads. After the third canto, MDX and LBT were back to square one, 51-all, but the latter blinked in the final half of the fourth canto to settle for runner-up honors.

MDX/Armatech 78 – Trajano 17, Moreno 16, Abuy 11, Berline 9, Jinang 6, Montano 6, Poquiz 4, Canedo 3,Gabaldon 2.

Bayani/LBT 62—Cosino 14, Diaz 13, Ocampo 13, Tiples 8, Pineda 7, J. Palacios 3, Bicera 2, De La Torre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-21, 33-29, 51-51, 78-62.

FASTER

From Page 28

but agree with Koo's observation that the Commonwealth's female strikers are no longer pushovers.

"Our team shows a lot of promise with many U19 players on the squad. They are solid soccer players and though they are young, each of them has leadership qualities that will help carry the team," said Herber, who will be playing for the CNMI for the first time, but is a veteran and reliable striker of the women's league.

Hill is a returnee, having donned the colors of the Commonwealth in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition in Taiwan in 2009.

"Compared to our 2009 squad, this team is faster and better. Our collective skills are great," said Hill.

Katie Peters and Carrie Schuler, who also played in Taiwan, liked what they saw on the team when they returned to the island a few weeks ago to join the squad.

"The girls move fast both on offense and defense. It' s nice to see these so many young girls on the team, as I know if I could not come back in the future and join the team, there will be a lot of players willing to step up," Peters said.

Schuler, who scored the CNMI's first ever goal (against Guam) in the EAFF tournament, said the young players give the team more depth and power.

"I am confident we can match up with Guam and scoring will be better this time," Schuler said

Melody Johnson is among the young guns on the team, but is no stranger to regional competitions having represented the CNMI in tennis tournaments in Fiji and New Zealand. She said the pressure to deliver good results in the EAFF tournament falls on their shoulder and this will challenge them to go all out in the competition.

"It's big task, as people kept saying we have a young and better team this year. We trained hard for the tournament and I hope the dedication and hard work we put into during our training session pay off this week," Johnson said.

Johnson and company, who left Saipan for Guam yesterday, trained for over six months for almost every day. They practiced in the morning and afternoon every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, while Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday sessions were done only in the evening.

"Training includes fitness test. We ran a lot, we ran from Oleai to Garapan," Johnson said.

The tough training almost made the young girls cry, Koo joked. However, Mikky Vargas believed the punishing practices will make them more ready against Guam and Hong Kong this week.

"They (coaches) made us work extra hard on defense and that's okay because we need to be prepared against Hong Kong and Guam," Vargas said.

Meanwhile, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan were among the teams' well-wishers last Friday.

White said it's always good to see the CNMI represented in off-island and international competitions, while Tan made special mention of returning players who spent their own time and resources to be with their respective teams. The NMIFA head also thanked the Chelsea coaches for their assistance with the women's squad and the Japan Football Association for bringing men's coach Chikashi Suzuki to Saipan.

RECORD

From Page 28

pearances in the annual event, including the first place finish in the mahi category and third place in a tight Wahoo race last year, but last Saturday's giant catch topped them all.

Two hours before the deadline, the board recording the participating boats'catch was almost bare, and at first glance the outrageous number penciled on *Emmanuel's* spot looked like a fallacy, but it was no joke.

The record bill fish measured in at 11 and 1/2 feet long and was so big that officials had to weigh it on a boom truck because it was too bulky for the weigh station's parameters.

After the weigh-in and when it was time to award the biggest winner of the tournament, a teary-eyed Arriola posed with the whopping $10,000 prize.

The tournament drew 49 boats and offered additional prize packages to the Top 5 finishers in the billfish, wahoo, mahi, skipjack, and total weight categories. *Emmanuel*'s grand prize is excluded from the other categories.

The complete details of the two-day tournament will be released this week.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	54	33	.621	—
Baltimore	46	41	.529	8
Tampa Bay	46	42	.523	8 1/2
Boston	44	44	.500	10 1/2
Toronto	44	44	.500	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	48	39	.552	—
Cleveland	45	42	.517	3
Detroit	45	43	.511	3 1/2
Kansas City	38	48	.442	9 1/2
Minnesota	36	51	.414	12

West Division

Texas	53	35	.602	
Los Angeles	48	40	.545	5
Oakland	45	43	.511	8
Seattle	37	52	.416	16Ω

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	50	35	.588	—
Atlanta	48	39	.552	3
New York	46	42	.523	5 1/2
Miami	42	45	.483	9
Philadelphia	38	51	.427	14

Central Division

Cincinnati	49	38	.563	—
Pittsburgh	49	38	.563	—
St. Louis	46	42	.523	3 1/2
Milwaukee	41	46	.471	8
Chicago	35	52	.402	14
Houston	33	55	.375	16 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	48	40	.545	—
Los Angeles	48	41	.539	1/2
Arizona	42	45	.483	5 1/2
San Diego	35	54	.393	13 1/2
Colorado	34	53	.391	13 1/2

JOHN DEERE CLASSIC SCORES

SILVIS, Illinois (AP) — Scores Saturday in the John Deere Classic, a US PGA Tour event at the par-71, 7,268-yard TPC Deere Run course:

THIRD ROUND

a-amateur

Troy Matteson	61-68-66	–195
Steve Stricker	65-67-66	–198
Zach Johnson	68-65-66	–199
Brian Harman	65-65-69	–199
Billy Hurley III	68-68-64	–200
John Senden	69-64-67	–200
J.J. Henry	67-64-69	–200
Jamie Lovemark	71-66-64	–201
Bobby Gates	66-68-67	–201
Scott Piercy	65-69-67	–201
Chris DiMarco	66-67-68	–201
Gary Christian	65-66-70	–201
Scott Brown	70-66-66	–202
Ryan Moore	67-69-66	–202
Stuart Appleby	66-69-67	–202
Robert Garrigus	65-66-71	–202
Ricky Barnes	64-67-71	–202
Jeff Maggert	68-62-72	–202
Billy Horschel	70-68-65	–203
Erik Compton	68-69-66	–203
Seung-Yul Noh	68-69-66	–203
Brendon de Jonge	68-68-67	–203
Tim Clark	67-68-68	–203
Y.E. Yang	68-65-70	–203
Tommy Biershenk	66-66-71	–203
Lee Janzen	67-65-71	–203
Jonathan Byrd	72-66-66	–204
Chad Campbell	68-70-66	–204
K.J. Choi	65-72-67	–204
Chris Kirk	68-68-68	–204
Matt Every	71-65-68	–204
Tom Gillis	66-69-69	–204
Tommy Gainey	69-66-69	–204
Duffy Waldorf	66-69-69	–204
John Merrick	67-67-70	–204
Chris Couch	67-67-70	–204
Luke Guthrie	65-68-71	–204
Jimmy Walker	66-71-68	–205
Kevin Streelman	68-69-68	–205
Nick Watney	68-68-69	–205
Blake Adams	71-67-68	–206
Scott Dunlap	70-68-68	–206
Spencer Levin	66-71-69	–206
Jeff Overton	69-68-69	–206
Mark Wilson	69-68-69	–206
Steve Wheatcroft	67-70-69	–206
Camilo Villegas	71-66-69	–206
Kyle Stanley	68-69-69	–206
Alex Cejka	67-68-71	–206
Martin Flores	67-67-72	–206
Ben Crane	66-67-73	–206
Matt Bettencourt	68-70-69	–207
Mathias Gronberg	69-69-69	–207
Josh Teater	69-69-69	–207
Jerry Kelly	69-69-69	–207
Chez Reavie	67-70-70	–207
Randall Hutchison	68-68-71	–207
Rory Sabbatini	67-68-72	–207
Ted Potter, Jr.	67-66-74	–207
Vaughn Taylor	72-66-70	–208
Bill Lunde	66-72-70	–208
Danny Lee	70-68-70	–208
Chris Stroud	68-70-70	–208
Carl Pettersson	68-69-71	–208
J.J. Killeen	68-68-72	–208
Nathan Green	67-69-72	–208
Dicky Pride	67-68-73	–208
Chris Riley	68-70-71	–209
a-Jordan Spieth	70-67-72	–209
Roland Thatcher	69-68-72	–209
Mark Anderson	69-67-73	–209
Charley Hoffman	68-68-74	–210
Hunter Haas	67-69-74	–210
Alexandre Rocha	70-68-73	–211
Kevin Chappell	70-68-73	–211
Marco Dawson	70-68-74	–212
Bud Cauley	69-69-75	–213

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Basketball games galore

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Basketball matches were everywhere on island, as three leagues started their playoff round last week.

Over at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium for the UFO caging, the DYS/SMF and VisMinda-Hi-Five arranged their title match in the U14 division of the Docomo Pacific Cup. DYS/SMF was seeded to the finals outright after topping the double-round robin regular season, while VisMinda took the second finals berth after edging MDX/Armatech in a playoff game, 65-63.

In the U20 league, DYS/Bayani also advanced to the finals after routing AON/Boholano, 88-36, and the former was scheduled to meet MDX/Mariana Resort in the winner-take-all title match yesterday afternoon. MDX gained a finals berth after eking out a 71-64 victory over SIP/Barney's.

In the Masters Budweiser Cup, it was defending champion MDX/Armatech versus Bayani/LBT. The title duel was also played yesterday with MDX marching into the finals after beating Batangas/Fong's Bakery, 91-75, and Bayani eliminating Laguna in the other semis tiff, 92-72.

At the Gualo Rai Court for the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League, only two teams are left standing—Team Pogi and KFC/Taco Bell. Team Pogi won a finals berth after ousting Irish Spring last Friday, while KFC/Taco Bell prevailed in the other semis game against Mawati. The finale set for last Saturday was rained-out and will be played tonight.

At the Garapan Basketball Court, the 2012 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League is also down to two teams—Irish Spring and QQ Rent A Car. Irish Spring made it to the finals after surprisingly whipping Mobil, 103-93, while QQ Rent A Car also advanced after beating Ashley's, 87-79.

Other on-going competitions on Saipan continued last week with the 2012 Saipan Major League Baseball and the Chamolinian slow-pitch softball league having with their regular season games and the Saipan Soccer School also holding preliminary matches in its men's and women's futsal league.

Still in soccer, MP United conducted a seven-day camp with its former players returning to the island to teach youth club members the basic of the sport.

In athletics, Rachel Abrams posted 13.05 seconds in the 100m run in the 2012 IAFF World Junior Championships at the Olympic Stadium Lluís Companys de Montjuïc in Barcelona, Spain.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bayani/LBT Appraisal players pose for a group photo after their playoff win over VisMinda/Civic Boys in the UFO Budweiser Cup last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Fastbreakers' Nikko Salem goes up for a shot against two Irish Spring defenders during their playoff game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mobil's Gyles Ruluked pulls up for a shot against NVM defenders during their playoff game in the Blue Haus caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hi-Five/POWER's Ariel Urbano dribbles around MDX/Mariana Resort defenders during their playoff game in the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
KFC/Taco Bell's Joon Lee goes up for a layup against Marianas Water's Joseph Galulu during their playoff game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Participants in MP United's summer camp join a scrimmage last Thursday at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Godfather's striker stops the ball during their game against Shirley's Coffee Shop in the Saipan Soccer School's futsal league last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Faster, better CNMI female strikers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A promising CNMI Women's National Team will be playing in the EAFF Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition Round 1 at the Leo Palace in Guam this week.

"I watched the CNMI and Guam game in the EAFF tournament in Taiwan in 2009. The CNMI lost, 1-5, but I think that will not happen again," said Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) technical director Luam Khen Koo, who is one of the coaches helping out the CNMI strikers in their preparation for the EAFF competition.

"This is a much improved team and I am confident it could play well against Guam this time," said Koo during the team dinner/send-off party for members of the CNMI Men's and Women's Nationals last Friday at the Seaside Hall of the Kanoa Resort.

Team captain Megan Herber and Natalie Hill could not help

See FASTER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players and coaches of the CNMI Women's National Team and NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right front row, pose for a group photo during a team gathering last Friday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

Back-to-back for MDX/Armatech

MDX/Armatech's Martin Moreno pulls up for a one hander against the outstretched arms of Bayani/LBT Appraisal's Tony Diaz during the third quarter of their title game in the UFO Budweiser Cup yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MDX/Armatech clinched its second straight masters championships after outlasting Bayani/LBT Appraisal, 78-62, in the winner-take-all finale of the 2012 UFO Budweiser Cup yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MDX, which won last year's crown against Cabalen, 84-79, recovered from an early twin-digit deficit, 6-19, making a rally late in the second quarter and holding Bayani/LBT Appraisal to only one field goal in the last 6:14 of the match for a come-from-behind title win.

The finals was last tied at 57-all, 6:14 left on the clock, before Bayani/LBT Appraisal fell prey to MDX's pressure defense, forcing the former to either lose the ball or rattle on its offensive set. MDX's tough defense started in the inbound play, as it hounded Bayani/LBT Appraisal's receivers.

After the deadlock, James Abuy anchored a

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26

Record 942-lb marlin in SFA Derby

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Emmanuel reeled in mammoth 942-lb marlin to set a new record catch (bill fish) during the opening day of the Saipan Fishermen Association's 17th Annual International Fishing Derby last Saturday.

Captain Michael James and crewmembers George Arriola, Frank James, and John Hattig caught the huge bill fish just six hours after the competition started at the Smiling Cove Marina to break the record (624.34-lb marlin) of Saipan's Danny Agulto set in 1997.

Besides his 15-year record catch, Agulto was said to have reeled in a bill fish weighing more than 800-lbs, but did not get it in a competitive setting. Nevertheless, *Emmanuel*'s monster surpassed both feats and reset the bar for the future generation.

The group from Guam has had a number of successful ap-

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Emmanuel crewmembers and supporters pose with their giant 942-lb marlin caught during the Saipan Fishermen Association's 17th Annual International Fishing Derby last Saturday.